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Mayor's Messages
1802 - 1831

Baltimore. Mayor.

The Mayor's message and report of the city officers, made to the City Council of Baltimore.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

In consequence of the Message from both Branches to the Mayor, he appeared in the Council Chamber and delivered the following communication,—To wit:

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
City of Baltimore, February 9th, 1801.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

Since I last met you, I have endeavored by every means in my power to investigate the causes which produced the calamity with which this City was last year afflicted. In this important business, I have been aided not only by the physicians generally, but by the observations of several other respectable citizens, the result of which shall be submitted to your consideration, and altho' it is greatly to be lamented that the minutest investigation of the subject still leaves a diversity of opinions respecting the origin of this disorder, yet all agree that there is a variety of deleterious matter in and about the City, which either gives birth to it, or is congenial to its dissemination, it will, therefore, be incumbent on us, to exert the whole powers of the Corporation, in rendering our Health Laws sufficiently energetic, as well to guard against the introduction of this mortal fever from abroad, as effectually and speedily to remove from amongst ourselves all such nuisances as are supposed, if not to generate, at least to disseminate it.

The Legislature of this State, at their last session, passed an act to enable the Corporation to introduce water into the City from the neighboring springs or streams, which is certainly an object of great importance as well with respect to the health of the inhabitants as to the security of property from fire, and, therefore, I have no doubt but you will make suitable provision for carrying this law into effect.

A magazine for the storage of Gunpowder has been erected conformably to the ordinance for that purpose, it will, therefore, be necessary to provide effectually against the keeping of considerable quantities of Gunpowder at any other place within the City or precincts to fix, the rate of storage and to make such other necessary regulations respecting it as may secure the Citizens from danger on that account.

It has pleased God to protect the City of Baltimore from fires in a remarkable degree for the last year, while many other places have severely felt the effects of that destructive element, this blessing I fear will not be duly appreciated but on the contrary may have a tendency to relax the Citizens from their usual activity in forming and keeping up Fire Companies and in attending to keep their Engines, Fire Buckets, &c., in good order, especially while it depends on voluntary associations. I therefore recommend this subject in a particular manner to your consideration and suggest the propriety of acting on that part of the Charter, which empowers the Corporation to establish Fire Wards and Fire Companies.

The difficulties which arise in the exposition of the Ordinances of the Corporation from the many supplements, added from time to time, and the many Ordinances which have expired or have been superseded by others more efficient in their powers and provisions, renders a total revision of our Code of Ordinances necessary, I therefore would suppose it advisable to revise the same and that such as have ceased to operate or have been superseded by others may be discontinued in a future publication, excepting only as to their title and reference where they may be found, and that all such Ordinances as have beed aided by supplements consolidated into one complete Law, as this measure would probably occupy too much time of the Council should they legislate upon each Ordinance separately, would it not be proper to employ a person well qualified for the duty to transcribe the several Ordinances under the direction of such persons as the Council shall appoint and that the same when prepared should be submitted to the two Branches for their inspection and decision thereon.

The Register will furnish you with a statement of the money received and expended for the last year, ending the 31st January, which exhibits a view of all that came into the Treasury during that period, and shows a balance on hand greater than could be expected considering the calamity we had to struggle with. That part which arises from the Lottery you will observe is appropriated for the purpose of introducing water into the City, and I expect will be increased several hundred dollars on a final settlement of the Lottery account.

Besides the sums charged in the Register's account for the Health Department and for the Support of the Poor, the Board of Health have received considerable donations from other quarters; a particular and distinct account of all which sums and the applications thereof, they are now prepared to lay before you.

JAMES CALHOUN.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
City of Baltimore, February 8th, 1802.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

In pursuance of the ordinance to preserve the Health of the City, passed at the last session, very great exertions have been made as well at public as at private expense in filling up and paving streets, filling up lots and low grounds, and in removing filth and other nuisances from the City, which have greatly exceeded any calculations or appropriations made for those objects, but when we consider the quantity of paving effected more than any preceeding season, embracing so many cross streets, (which are at the expense of the City,) the alterations necessarily made in some former pavements, that several public streets, lanes and alleys leading to the water as well westward as eastward of the Falls, were so low and flat as to require very considerable filling up to raise them above the tide, and that the remarkable mildness of the winter has kept the Superintendents of the Streets constantly employed.

I trust the excess in these items of expense will be satisfactorily accounted for.

Comformably to the resolve of the City Council at their last session, I applied to the Legislature of this State to pass an Act for the condemnation of a piece of ground for the purpose of erecting a Lazaretto thereon, and they were pleased to comply with our request, it will therefore be incumbent on you to make provision for carrying this salutary law into effect, and you will please recollect that the Act to enable the Corporation to introduce water into the City is limited to the first day of January next, so far as respects the condemnation of lands, &c. for that purpose, therefore, if we mean to avail ourselves of that part of the Act, it must be done in the course of the present year.

The gentlemen appointed to superintend and direct the scooping and deepening the Basin and Harbor, and in dispensing of the dirt thereof, have employed a Mr. Colver to work a machine of his own construction during the greater part of the preceeding year, and it appears to answer very well, and to have rendered considerable service to the navigation. They have at my request, procured a survey of part of the Basin, ascertained the depth of the water, and marked off a Channel leading to the head of the Basin, which shows the present state of the navigation, and will enable the Council to form some judgment of the practicability and expense of deepening the Channel to any given number of feet.

There has been a convenient wharf erected near the Powder Magazine, and a road made from the said Magizine down to the wharf, but neither the building for the Superintendent nor the Board Fence directed to be made around the said Magazine have as yet been erected, as the appropriation was found inadequate to those purposes, and as the difference of expense between a Wooden Fence and a Brick one is perhaps not so great as in their durability, it may be worthy the consideration of the Council, whether it may not be right to substitute the latter instead of the former.

Nothing has been done with respect to the City Hall, but a conditional purchase of a lot of ground, subject to the approbation of the City Council.

Many of the Citizens would be better satisfied with the Ordinance to erect a City Hall, if there was a limitation to the sum appropriated for that purpose.

As the Court House is in a ruinous state and serious apprehensions are entertained that it must come down before long and consequently a new one to be erected, and as there is a suitable lot of ground for the purpose, belonging to Baltimore County, (of which the City is a considerable part) perhaps it may be thought advisable to connect the City Hall with the Court House, which will lessen the expenses of each separate building, and by having all the offices under one roof, make it more convenient for the citizens as well as for the inhabitants

of the County. The Council will determine whether it be proper to make any alterations in the Ordinance relating to this subject.

I take leave to recommend to your consideration a revisal of the Regulations of the Markets, so far as respects the temporary stalls and benches, as I find the present mode of occupying them is neither so satisfactorily or profitable as it would be by permitting all those unhoused to be occupied at anytime by persons bringing Provisions to Market, on their paying a small sum each time to the Clerk of the Market for the use of the City.

The Ordinance to regulate the Inspection of Fire Wood brought by Land to the City for sale, appears not to answer the good purposes intended, and gives much trouble and delay to the Sellers of Wood, therefore, unless some more effectual mode can be devised to detect Frauds, it may be found advisable to repeal it altogether. It will also be necessary to alter the districts of the Wood-corders of that brought by Water, as their circumstances and situations have materially changed since the passage of the Ordinance on that subject

The Ordinance to regulate the Sinking of Wells and erecting and Repairing Pumps does not give general satisfaction, and it is diffcult to get gentlemen in the different wards to undertake the Superintendence thereof, whether any other system can be devised that will answer the purpose better is with you to determine. The entire prohibition of Hogs being kept in any part of the City from the first day of April to the first day of November every year, is seriously felt by many poor people on the outskirts of the City, who are in the habit of raising their pork in pens with very little expense. Some are of opinion that where pains are taken to keep hogstyes in proper order, that the offals given to the Hogs removes more nuisances than are created by the styes. Several of the Original Town Plats on which all the titles to the City Property depends, were so torn and defaced by their very frequent examination, that it became indispensably necessary to have them copied and the whole made into an Atlas, in order to

preserve them from total distruction. I therefore employed an artist to perform this service under the superintendence of the Register, and am persuaded you will approve of the expense.

About the commencement of the present year the citizens were much alarmed at the accounts of incendiaries in several of the Cities and Towns in the United States, and requested me to increase the number of Watchmen far Guarding the City more effectually against fires and other incidents during the present winter, which I have done at an additional expense of four hundred and eighty dollars per month, until the meeting of the Council, you will therefore please to take up the subject, and either agree to continue this additional expense during the remainder of the winter or return to the usual establishment of the Watch as may judge most advisable.

By the Act of Incorporation, we are authorized to regulate and fix the assize of Bread, on this subject there are a diversity of sentiment in the citizens respecting the propriety of affixing prices to the article of Bread more than to other articles, but all seem to agree in the propriety of obliging the Bakers to sell their Bread by Weight, so that the purchaser may know how much he gets for his money.

The Register has carefully prepared a complete collection of all Ordinances now in force, which have been passed since our first Incorporation, with Marginal and Explanatory Notes, Tables of Contents, Index, &c., and has had five hundred copies printed and bound, you will therefore please to direct in what manner they are to be disposed of. The Register will also hand you a summary of all the monies received and expended during the last year, ending the 31st day of January, 1802, and will published the same for the information of the citizens conformably to the Act of Incorporation.

JAS. CALHOUN, *Mayor.*

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, February 14, 1803.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

It must afford us much satisfaction to participate in the general prosperity of our country, and to reflect that we have passed another year without any extraordinary calamity, for although during the last summer there were several cases of the malignant fever in different parts of the City, I have not heard of one instance wherein it proved contagious, and it tended more to alarm the country around and to the injury of our commerce than to excite any real apprehensions amongst our fellow citizens. Whilst we feel a proper sense of gratitude to the Supreme Being that the visitation of this disease has been so slightly wrought, not to forget His goodness in preserving us in a remarkable degree from fires, especially when added to the common accidents incident to all towns, we have reason to believe that several attempts have been made by vile incendiaries within a few weeks past to involve the City in flames.

Experieuce evinces that no measure we can take contributes so much to protect us from the malignant effects of fever as cleanliness, and therefore that every exertion ought to be made to remove from the City all impure substances and putrefactive matter, and to fill up low and sunken situations which retain stagnant water and filth; much has already been done in this respect since we have been incorporated, and every observant mind must view with pleasure the great improvements that have been made, as well in the east part of the City as the west, in filling up low and sunken grounds, and in making streets, that were before quagmires, not only passable but elegant; these, together with a variety of other

matters, such as watching and lighting the City, erecting and repairing bridges, repairing and improving markets, assisting to build and to support an hospital, erecting a powder magazine, deepening and improving the Harbour, sinking wells and keeping pumps in repair, cleaning the streets, etc., etc., have been attended with heavy expense to the City, and have borne hard on many individuals, but I trust they will reflect that the expense has been unavoidable, and was the only means whereby their property could have been rendered valuable to them.

Agreeably to the Ordinance of last session, a channel has been marked off in the Basin, and the north side thereof for about one hundred feet wide cleared out to the depth of ten feet as low down as the market space; it will therefore be necessary to continue this channel in such direction as to be most useful, and to have it cleared out as soon as possible, to admit the like draft of water into the upper channel.

It is to be observed that when any of the mud machines are employed out of the channel marked off by law, it is not at the public expense.

The increasing trade of the City points out the necessity of extending our inspection laws to many more articles of commerce than have yet been done, such as flaxseed, hemp, potash, butter, etc. You will therefore give this subject due consideration.

The Ordinance to restrain gaming and to license and regulate theatrical and other public exhibitions is found to be defective, in as much as it does not sufficiently comprehend a dangerous species of gaming, such as faro tables and other like devices which frequently entrap the unwary and strip them of their money, to the great injury—indeed, in some instances, to the ruin—of themselves and their families.

The Ordinance to regulate the sale of bread, I fear, has been evaded by many of the bakers; the Council will consider the propriety of making it more efficient.

Every mode hitherto devised to regulate the sinking of wells and erecting and repairing pumps has proved unsatisfactory to many of the citizens. Whether any other plan can be fallen

upon that will give more satisfaction, is with you to decide. It is greatly to be lamented that no measure for supplying the City with water from springs or fountains has been adopted by the Corporation; offers for this purpose have been made by individuals—how far it would be proper to encourage such an undertaking in a private company will be with you to determine.

I have been informed that a bill was introduced into the Legislature of this State, during their last session, to make some material alterations in our charter, which was postponed for further consideration until the next session of the General Assembly. Whether these alterations are in themselves desirable or otherwise is not for me at this time to determine. I submit to your consideration how far it is proper to alter so sacred an act as a charter without the consent of the citizens, expressed in their corporate capacity or in some other deliberative way, as it must be well known that procuring out-door signatures to petitions or other papers does not always shew the sense of the majority, being frequently obtained more through personal influence of those handing them about and from their industry and exertions than from a deliberative view of the subject matter contained therein.

The Legislature of the State passed some acts with reference to Lotteries, which require the assent of the Corporation before they can be acted upon within the City; you will therefore give or withhold that assent according to your ideas of propriety under all existing circumstances.

The Register will lay before you a summary of the money received and expended during the last year ending the 31st of January, and will submit his accounts to the inspection of such gentlemen as you may please to select from your respective Branches for that purpose.

JAS. CALHOUN.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, February 13, 1804.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

When we contemplate the prosperity and happiness of our country compared with any other known to us, and especially when we reflect that this City has participated its full proportion in the enjoyment of these blessings for the past year, without feeling any of those calamities which have unfortunately occurred in several of the cities and towns of the United States. What abundant cause have we to acknowledge with sincere and grateful hearts the superintending care of the Supreme Being in condescending thus to prosper and protect us.

It is not presumable that the best regulated police can effectually prevent the introduction of malignant disorders, or the calamity of fires (which to a country at peace, and situated like ours, are perhaps the greatest misfortunes we are subject to) but it is certainly our duty to use every human means for those purposes, and not to slacken our vigilance on account of our last year's security.

I trust you will not find it necessary to remain long in session at this time, for altho' a City of the rapid growth of Baltimore requires more Ordinances to regulate its police than most people imagine who are unaccustomed to legislative proceedings, yet I do not recollect any subjects of much importance not already decided on, except that of introducing a copious and permanent supply of water into the City, which is certainly an object of much magnitude and very interesting to the citizens, but every attempt heretofore made has failed of success. Whether it will be possible for the Council to adopt any measure that will answer the purpose, is with them to decide.

It may, however, be useful to take a retrospective view of such ordinances as have been passed since our Incorporation, and especially to examine our Inspection and Market Laws, and if necessary make such alterations as will render the intercourse between the seller and buyer more easy. In our Inspection Laws the principal object must be to support the credit, at foreign markets, of our exports, but where the article is used amongst ourselves, and the buyer can have a view of what he wants to purchase, it cannot be necessary to throw difficulties in his way to obtain it. In our Market Laws we should guard all in our power against the forestalling and huckstering up for the purpose of selling at an advanced price articles of provisions intended for the supply of our markets, at the same time giving every encouragement and facility to the bringing them in from the country; and it may be worthy the consideration of the Council how far the prohibiting the sale of provisions out of market, to the consumer, is useful. Many think it prevents considerable supplies from being brought in by those who cannot attend at the market houses, is daily violated, without the possibility of detection, by persons disposed to evade it, and only restrains those from purchasing who pay more respect to our laws, and consequently are our best citizens.

It is also believed that compelling persons to sell meal at market by weight (which was intended to prevent fraud in the mode of measuring) has an effect to preclude many of the country people from supplying our markets with that article, as they cannot bring with them scales and weights, or attend to having it weighed out in small quantities to the consumers, consequently it throws the supplies in this way into the hands of the dealers in that article, and has raised the price. It is with the Council to judge of this matter.

Altho' it may and must be necessary to alter our Ordinances whenever experience finds it proper, yet it will be recollected that changes or alterations should be made with caution, as next to having a bad law is that of not knowing what is the law, from its being frequently changed.

The Register will lay before you a summary of the monies received and expended for the last year ending the first inst., and will submit his accounts to your examination or to such committee as you may appoint. Altho' it will appear that there has been a very considerable sum expended for various objects, yet I trust it will be found to have been as economically applied as the nature of the services would admit of, and it gives me much pleasure that we were able to meet every demand and leave a balance in favor of the City at the end of the year of upwards of five thousand dollars.

JAS. CALHOUN.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, February 11, 1805.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

Although the repeated calls of my fellow citizens, which has placed me in my present station, is highly grateful to my feelings, yet, when I reflect on the general satisfaction given by my predecessor during the long period of his service, I cannot but feel considerable diffidence in discharging the duties of the office with which I have been honored. But my zealous and conscientious endeavors to advance the interest and prosperity of the City, will, I trust, in some degree compensate for my deficiencies in other respects, and with Divine assistance these endeavors shall not be wanting.

With much satisfaction I meet you in the service of our constituents, a satisfaction heightened by the reflection, that our fellow-citizens have seldom, perhaps never, had greater cause to be grateful to Divine Providence for its protection and support.

The calamities peculiarly incident to large Cities have been graciously averted from us. Disease which has been a dreadful scourge to other places, has been scarcely known among us during the last two years; and while fire has widely spread its destructive flames in other places of the Union, we have been several years almost without alarm from this dread enemy. Have we not then cause not only to be thankful to the Supreme Disposer of events, but to persevere in and improve upon those regulations which, under his blessing have been found so effectual in guarding us against these calamities.

The duties prescribed by the several Ordinances for the removing of nuisances, and for the general preservation of Health, have as far as I am able to judge, been faithfully executed. But though much has been done, yet farther exertions

are necessary to render our Health and Quarantine Laws more efficient. The returns of Malignant Diseases in our own country, their frequent existence in the West India Islands, their repeated appearances in some of the Ports of Spain, and their recent spread to other places beyond the Atlantic, all concur to make it an object of the first importance and concern to us to prevent, by every possible means, the introduction or generation of scourges so dreadful.

Permit me, under these impressions, to call your attention in a particular manner to a revisal of the existing Ordinances on this subject, in order that the duties and labors of the ensuing season may be entered upon with the best prospect of success.

The frequent occurrence of Fires in several Cities of the United States, has induced me to adopt more rigorous and effectual measures than usual to guard and protect our City against the ravages of this distructive element.

Instead of an increase of the number of watchmen, which has heretofore been expedient and judicious, I have thought proper to constitute a patrole composed of the Constables of the City, who, in this extremely inclement season, and for a moderate compensation, have undertaken the duty assigned them with spirit and alacrity, and discharged it perfectly to my satisfaction. This arrangement will be continued during the present and succeeding month unless you may otherwise direct. The general regulations of the Corporation of the City of Baltimore, for our protection against fires, are, as well as I have been enabled to judge, better than any which have come to my knowledge; yet I have reason to believe an improvement may be made therein, which I shall be ready to communicate to you, or any committee which you may think proper to appoint, in relation to this subject.

I have the pleasure to inform you that no occasion has occurred which has rendered it necessary to borrow money in pursuance of the authority vested in me by the City Council at their last meeting.

But with much concern I communicate to you that the Legislature of this State, at their late session, have taken

possession of certain funds granted to the City of Baltimore by a law constituting part of its Charter of Incorporation. This measure is a subject of serious and public concern, not only as the funds arose within our City, and were applied to the important object of watching and lighting it, establishments interesting even to the most remote citizens of the State, who may visit Baltimore, or may have property within it to be protected, but also, and more especially, as it appears to indicate a spirit on the part of the Legislature by no means friendly to our interests, and at the same time establish a precedent affecting all chartered rights, and involves more important consequences than the injury done to the funds of the Corporation. To you the subject is now committed, and my co-operation in any measures which you may think proper to adopt on the part of the City shall be cheerfully and promptly afforded.

Agreeably to an ordinance passed the 7th day of July last, a lot of ground to the westward of the City has been purchased for a Pottersfield, for which the sum demanded is two hundred dollars beyond the sum appropriated, but in case the Corporation should not be disposed to make a further appropriation, I am authorized to state that one of the commissioners appointed by Ordinance to make the purchase, will take the lot in his own right, and repay to the Mayor and City Council the sum by them paid on account of the ground. From a report of the Commissioners of Health, it appears necessary that a lot of ground for the like purpose should be also purchased at the east end of the City, as well as that appropriations should be made for the repair and preservation of the City Hospital property.

The high price of fuel and the increased consumption of coal induce me to suggest to you the propriety of making some regulations for the measuring of coal brought to this City for sale, and as it has been represented to me that much imposition has been practiced in the sale of cord wood brought by land to this City, I submit to your consideration whether it would not be proper to make provision for the inspection and measuring of that article also.

There are few subjects connected with our Corporate affairs which can be more interesting to the inhabitants of this City than the Market regulations. I fear the Ordinances to prevent huckstering are not sufficiently efficient. It has also occurred to my mind that a fish market is much wanted; upon this subject you will act in such manner as you may think most conducive to the good of the City.

By an arrangement made in the Watch Department, which renders it the duty of the watchmen to regulate themselves by the setting and rising of the moon in the lighting and extinguishing of the lamps, a very considerable saving of oil has been effected; it is submitted to you whether further regulations for the government of the Watch would not render this establishment more useful to our fellow citizens.

When I refer to the several communications heretofore made to you on the subject of Inspection Laws, and when I reflect that there are among you gentlemen who, from their intelligence and particular walks in life, must be intimately acquainted with the best commercial interests of our City, I do not consider it necessary to make any observations to induce you to give the subject your most serious consideration.

Among other articles it has been stated that inspection of pot and pearl ashes, of flaxseed, and of gun powder are much wanted. The subject generally will doubtless engage your attention, as none other can be more important to the interest of the City of Baltimore.

As the Acts of the General Assembly of the State are not published until after the session of the City Council, I have procured for your information copies of several laws deemed interesting to the Corporation or the citizens of Baltimore, which will be laid before you.

The Register, as usual, will lay before you a summary of monies by him received and disbursed on account of the City, for the year ending the thirty-first day of January last, from which it will appear that the balance, amounting to seven thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars and seventy-six cents, then in the treasury, was greater than perhaps you may have had reason to expect.

You will, gentlemen, however, in making your appropriations for the service of the present year, consider that our funds are generally precarious, uncertain, and fluctuating, and ever must be so while they so much depend upon uncertain and indirect means.

THOROWGOOD SMITH.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, February 10, 1806.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

In addressing you on this occasion of your annual meeting, I feel great satisfaction in being able to offer my congratulations on the health, peace, order and prosperity with which the City of Baltimore continues to be favored, which is doubtless a subject of grateful reflection with our fellow citizens, and without a failure in our official duty we cannot neglect to promote such measures as shall appear to us calculated to render these blessings permanent.

The Ordinances to preserve the health of the City, as far as I can form a judgment, have been attended with salutary effects. Should new or further regulations be thought advisable, and detailed information be required, it will be promptly furnished by the gentlemen composing the Board of Health, whose diligence and fidelity in the execution of their trust entitle them to my warmest approbation.

The attention which the City Council has heretofore manifested towards the Fire Companies may have, in some degree, excited that laudable exertion which has been exhibited on their part. During the last year three additional Companies have been formed amongst our citizens. These new instances of zeal, to provide the means by which fires may be quickly and with certainty extinguished, are highly commendable; and whether or not it is necessary to foster this spirit by corresponding aids to these new Companies, must remain with you to determine. There is a point of moment connected with this subject which it may not be improper to notice, in this place; every person who has attended at extinguishing fires must have seen, and often with deep concern, the fatal

consequences resulting from the officers of Fire Companies being without authority to direct or compel idle spectators to take their turn and relieve those fatigued at the pumps, or in the water lines. It is submitted for consideration how far it will be expedient in conformity to the power given to the Corporation to enact by-laws for the prevention and extinguishment of fires, to invest officers of Fire Companies with authority to call for and require, during the existence of any fire, the labor of their fellow-citizens, more particularly in working the engines and keeping up by means of lines a constant and uninterrupted supply of water.

In pursuance of "An Ordinance to establish a Fish Market and for other purposes therein mentioned," the lots adjoining the Hanover Market-house, heretofore a part of said market and sold to individuals and on which a roof is erected suitable for a market-house, have been repurchased and conveyances to the City duly executed agreeably; also to the said Ordinance a fish market has been erected at the Centre Market to which a room is attached, designed for a permanent weigh house and office for the clerk of the market.

I flatter myself, the erection of this room will meet your approbation, especially when it is considered that the late weigh-house was a temporary structure, and that the ground it stood upon is used for movable stalls from which a rent is derived. It will be proper to make provision for the debt incurred upon this occasion, as well as to form the necessary regulations for the government of the fish-market. While upon this subject, permit me to call your attention to the expediency of raising the lower Centre Market and putting a new roof thereon.

So much of the prayer of the petition of the Corporation to the General Assembly of Maryland as respects the mode of Elections having been granted, the mode of voting at City Elections in future will be by ballot as for delegates to the Legislature, and the elections will commence and close at the same times of the day as these elections now open and close.

It has also pleased the General Assembly to empower the Mayor and City Council to have and exercise the right of regulating all Weights and Measures within the City and precincts by the present standard, from and after the first day of the present month of February, and until such time as a standard of Weights and Measures shall have been fixed by Congress, an Ordinance being requisite to give effect to the powers thus vested in the Corporation the subject is submitted for your consideration.

As appropriations have been frequently made which have proved inadequate to the object intended, it is respectfully submitted to your consideration whether it is not desirable that particular care should be taken to render them as nearly as possible equal to the object for which they are designed. This would prevent the work remaining unfinished to the injury of individuals or the public, and exempt the Mayor from the disagreeable necessity of exceeding the authorized appropriations.

The register will lay before you a summary of the receipts and expenditures of the year ending 31st day of January last, from which it appears that a balance remained in the Treasury on that day amounting to the sum of twelve thousand sixty-four dollars and fifty eight cents. His books, accounts and vouchers will be also exhibited for your examination, or for that of such Committee you may appoint for the purpose.

THOROWGOOD SMITH.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, February 9, 1807.

In entering upon the annual report required to be made by the act of incorporation, I find sufficient cause to congratulate you upon the uninterrupted health which the City has enjoyed during the whole of the past year; upon its prosperous and improving trade; upon its increased wealth; upon the progress of the works of a public nature, commenced and promoted by its inhabitants for securing a regular and plentiful supply of wholesome water, and for extending the benefits of its commerce; upon the harmony that pervades social intercoures and the spirit of industry and improvement that is everywhere perceived. For circumstances so favorable to our City, I devoutly mingle my gratitude with yours to that benignant Providence, whose wisdom is ever directed to the least communities as well as the greatest.

The Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, entitled "an additional supplement to an act entitled an act to erect Baltimore Town, in Baltimore County, into a City, and to incorporate the inhabitants thereof, passed in November Session, 1805, proposing certain alterations to be made in the Charter, is according to its purport to be submitted to the consideration of the First Branch of the City Council. I submit it, therefore, in the confidence that whatever may be the determination relative to these alterations, it will be founded in wisdom and a just view of the interest and welfare of the City.

Although it is not within the powers granted to this corporation to render the institutions for the support of the poor more perfect, yet it may not be unworthy your inquiry how far the City Council have power to make provision for the protection and maintenance of unfortunate helpless maniacs,

too many of whom have appeared in our streets, to the dread of some and annoyance of many of our fellow citizens.— Humanity, it would seem, requires that something should be done upon the subject, either by individuals or by the City Corporation. Our City Hospital, if ever designed as a receptacle of deranged persons (and it would appear that this was one object intended to be accomplised by those who caused it to be erected) is very badly constructed for the purpose and should you be disposed to direct that maniacs under certain terms and conditions shall be admitted there, appropriations will be required to make the indispensable alterations in the building.

At the last Session of the City Council, the Register was requested to revise, collate and abridge all the Ordinances of this Corporation now in force.

This work he has nearly finished, and it will be presented to you at the present session. You will unquestionably weigh well the necessity of a due attention to the important object of this revision, that of rendering our Ordinances as perfect, permanent and readily to be comprehended by all descriptions of persons as the subjects will admit of.

In addition to the Ordinances passed for the inspection of country produce brought to this City for sale, permit me to recommend to your consideration an enquiry into the propriety of establishing an inspection of pot and pearl ash.

It may be worthy your attention to ascertain whether in the contemplated plan of erecting a County Court House, permanent accommodations may not be procured therein for the service of the City Corporation. Such arrangements perhaps may be made with the Commissioners appointed for erecting the Court House as may return the building less expensive to the County, and much more convenient to our fellow citizens by having all public offices under the same roof.

The City Corporation has been subject to some expenses, which appear to me properly chargeable to the County. Upon tihs subject a correct understanding may be had with the Levy Court upon any representation you may think proper to make.

As this Corporation has purchased the machine for deepening the Harbor, and the Patentee's right to construct as many as may hereafter be required for the public service, it may be proper to make some permanent regulations respecting the use of the mud machine.

It is likewise desirable that the precise limits and bounds of the channel should be distinctly marked so that no ambiguity whatever may arise with those who may extend wharves to the line of permission granted by the Ordinance, entitled an Ordinance granting permission to extend ground therein described into the basin.

The Ordinance entitled "an Ordinance to regulate the sale of bread," cannot be carried into such full effect as to render that public and general benefit to our fellow citizens in the manner which it appears was designed by the Corporation; it is, therefore, submitted to you, whether this Ordinance should not be repealed and other more efficient regulations adopted.

The Register will, as usual, report the annual summary of receipts and disbursements from which it will appear that we have not the means of making such large appropriations as those of the last session of the City Council, nor indeed will the public necessities require them.

In taking into view the present state of the Treasury, you will observe that the debts incurred in the fish market and in the purchase of lots adjoining the Hanover Market, amounting to seven thousand one hundred and ninety-five dollars and ten cents, have been paid, and that we have likewise within the last year, raised the lower Centre Market House and erected a new roof thereon, with other improvements, amounting to three thousand, one hundred and twenty-six dollars and sixty cents, and purchased a machine for deepening the harbor, and the patentee's right for the sum of seven thousand dollars, the whole amounting to the very considerable sum of seventeen thousand three hundred and twenty-one dollars and seventy cents.

Called again by the suffrages of my fellow citizens to the honorable station to which their favorable opinion had before raised me, while I promise that a grateful sense of their

renewed confidence, shall prompt me to a faithful and conscientious discharge of my official duties, permit to assure you of my cordial co-operation with you as representatives of the City, in all measures calculated to promote the prosperity and happiness of our constituents.

THOROWGOOD SMITH.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, February 8, 1808.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

It affords me sincere pleasure to be able to congratulate you at the commencement of your annual session on the general prosperity of the City committed to our superintendence and notwithstanding some unfavorable occurrences, which have grown out of our foreign relations, we have abundant cause of gratitude to the Almighty Disposer of events for his numerous blessings; a sentiment which I trust both our constituents and ourselves will be always ready to manifest.

The late revision of the Ordinances of the City heretofore passed will probably in future, greatly abridge your labours in the public service; these Ordinances have generally been approved by experience and now are reduced into so small a compass that every citizen interested in the regulations of our police may readily inform himself upon the subject.

Again I am induced to call the attention of the City Council to the Ordinance entitled an Ordinance to regulate the sale of Bread.

It has been represented to me that a regulation in the nature of an assize of Bread upon the principle adopted in some of the cities in the United States would be more acceptable to the bakers, and in its operation would be more equitable and could be enforced with greater facility than the provisions contained in the present Ordinance upon this subject. If any better system can be adopted which may not infringe the rights of the trade, and may at the same time protect the purchasers of this essential article of life from imposition, it will doubtless meet with your approbation.

Agreeably to the directions of the City Council the Commissioners commenced the work of erecting a watch-house in Market Street in the Seventh Ward, but some citizens in the neighborhood considering the Corporation have no right to erect the house on the site proposed have procured an injunction from the Chancellor to stay further proceeding in the work, it is therefore proper that the Corporation should take some order in the case, and as we may, in a short time, expect to be under the necessity of providing another watch-house in lieu of that now occupied on the west side of Jones' Falls, it is my duty to call your attention to this subject also.

I shall cause to be laid before you the state of the City Hospital, in order that you may adopt such measures in relation to that building and the grounds attached to it, as you may consider interesting to our constituents. An effort has been made by you Gentlemen, and myself acting in our capacity as citizens of Baltimore, together with the members of the Board of Health, a number of the Clergy, Physicians and other citizens to obtain from the Legislature of Maryland funds for the support of indigent lunatics within the State for this Hospital. This application has not been successful. It is in a city of the rapidly increasing population of Baltimore, a subject of peculiar interest that provision should be made for this unfortunate class of miserable dependants, and if you can suggest any plan consistent with your corporate powers connected with this subject, I am inclined to believe it will be done.

The great sufferings and distress among the poorer class of our citizens occasioned by the scarcity and high price of wood in long and severe winters, has often awakened the sensibilities and opened the purses of the charitably disposed to administer to their relief.

The frequent recurrence of such times and the inadequacy of individual charities to meet this evil suggests that a provision commensurate to the object, is extremely to be wished for, it is therefore submitted whether it would not be advisable to appoint proper persons, that would undertake to procure and

have deposited in convenient situation a quantity of wood fully adequate to the purposes of such an establishment. This wood to be bought when at the lowest market price and sold out at the original cost with such addition only as to reimburse the cost with interest thereon; and the expenses attending the superintendance of the business.

By an arrangement of this kind much good might be done, great distress alleviated or prevented and a supply of fuel be always ready to be delivered to the needy persons of small means in severe winters and at a price little exceeding what it would have cost them at that season of the year when wood is generally cheapest.

An account of the work done towards deepening the Harbour, as well as the state of the mud machine, and an estimate of the cost of building another machine will be submitted to you by the City Commissioners for your information.

In conformity to the resolution of the City Council at their last session, a lot has been purchased adjoining the powder-house lot, fronting on the water, about five hundred feet and about seven hundred feet on the main road leading to and from the Fort, containing four acres and fifty-two perches, for the consideration of two thousand dollars; seventeen hundred and seventeen dollars and thirty cents of which has been paid in cash and the balance in mud, delivered from the mud machine. Perhaps this lot may contain more ground than was contemplated by the Council, but as it was not possible to obtain a place for the deposite of mud, combined with other advantages this lot possesses, we were therefore under the necessity of contracting for the whole, and altho' the lot may, for some time, serve only the purpose of a deposit for mud, yet, ultimately, it must prove to the City an advantageous and productive purchase.

Permit me to call your attention to the state of the Bridges of the City on Jones' Falls, two of which are now in a state of considerable decay, and from the materials of the structure of all of them none can be of long duration. It is respectfully submitted to you, whether funds may not be procured in the

course of a few years, to enable the City to erect one or more Bridges of Stone, which eventually may be less expensive to our constituents than the present temporary Bridges which annually, require considerable repairs.

As usual the Register's Annual Account will be submitted to you for your investigation.

It gives me sincere pleasure to observe that this account exhibits a ballance in favour of the City, amounting to seven thousand four hundred and thirty-three dollars and nine cents.

THOROWGOOD SMITH.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.
Baltimore, February 13, 1809.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

The progressive state of improvement since the establishment of the Corporation of our City and the perfection attained in our police, will, with each succeeding year, greatly diminish your labors and curtail the objects to which it will be necessary to call the attention of the City Council. I shall briefly remark to you that from the present stagnation of business we may reasonably calculate upon a considerable diminution of revenue, and to suggest the expediency of confining our appropriations for the ensuing year to works of necessity, postponing those of utility and ornament to a time when our resources shall be more adequate to their accomplishments. The decayed state of our bridges, will render their renewal in succession indispensable, and although the first erection thereof with permanent materials will be attended with heavy expenses. Yet, when accomplished, will speedily remunerate us with the sums hitherto expended for them, continued repair will not be required. Contracts have been entered into for the building of one, from Baltimore Street to York Street, and the City Commissioners will lay before you, an accurate estimate of the cost.

The building of a Watch House in the Seventh Ward with the funds appropriated, has been put into such a state as to afford comfortable accommodations to the Watch, and appears admirably calculated to answer the purpose for which it was intended. The Commissioners will lay before you an account of the sums expended for your information, and an estimate of the sum requisite to make a complete finish of the building.

The new mud machine is in such a state of forwardness as to be finished by the time the frost will probably break up, and the length of the days will be such as to justify the working thereof.

In conformity to a resolve of the Council at their February Session, the Register has prepared and will lay before you the amount of the inspections made by the several inspectors of the City, exhibiting the compensation by them, respectively received, and a statement of the monies paid into the treasury and by whom, the amount received for tonnage and wharfage by the wood corders, Inspectors of lumber, and Harbor Master, the exhibits from the Harbor Master particularly, stating the sum received from each wharf.

The Legislature of Maryland, at their last session, passed an act incorporating the Baltimore Water Company, in which it is enacted "that the Water Company shall insert or grant permission to the Corporation of Baltimore to insert and repair at the expense of the City, such a number of fire-plugs as to them shall appear necessary into the pipes and to convey the water through the streets thereof, to be used only in case of fire, but free from any charge for a supply of water.

The Charter has been accepted, and the Directors of the Company have expressed their desire of transfering to the City all the hydrants erected for the purpose of supplying the engines in case of Fire, and to erect such others as the City may require upon the terms specified in the act of incorporation. It will be necessary at your present session to invest some person or persons with authority to arrange the business with the Directors of the Water Company, who are well disposed to consult the interest and convenience of the City, as far as is compatible with their duties as directors. By an immediate attention to the subject, we shall be enabled to avail ourselves of the services of the very eminent artist at present employed as superintendant.

A number of our fellow citizens, feelingly alive to the distresses of the poor, occasioned by want of the usual enployment and the extreme severity of the weather for the last four

weeks, have appealed to that benevolence for which our City has hitherto been distinguished, and I am happy to add not in vain, having collected a very considerable sum for their relief. The gentlemen appointed to distribute the fund, have with zeal and industry truly commendable in every instance, in person visited the families applying for relief, and extended the hand of charity to them in proportion to their several necessities and the sums collected. In your wisdom and humanity, I confidently repose for further relief, as the reports of the gentlemen appointed to visit them are truly distressing to the feelings of humanity, both as to their numbers and their necessities.

As usual, the Register will lay before you his annual accounts for investigation, and it gives me pleasure to observe that these accounts exhibit a balance in favor of the City of eleven thousand and five dollars and seventeen cents.

EDWARD JOHNSON.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, February 12, 1810.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

It is with great satisfaction I am able to state to you, in the Communication on which my official duty imposes that, notwithstanding the very unpromising aspect of our affairs at the commencement of the last year, and the considerable reduction of revenue that was reasonably anticipated from the restricted state of our commercial operations, yet such have been the resources of our City, that our funds have proved ample and enabled us to accomplish the several objects contemplated by you.

The very great difficulties which presented themselves to the Board of Commissioners when preparing the foundations of the stone bridge over Jones' Falls, early induced them to have recoure to Mr. John Davis from whose experience and talents they expected great assistance in the accomplishment of the work. The Coffer dams and other necessary preparatory works were constructed under his immediate direction and certainly with such ability and good judgment as to have insured success, had it been practicable to have prepared the foundation without incurring the expense of piling. The mud machine was employed to clear away the obstructions and rubbish of the former arched stone bridge which fell in, which at considerable expense and labor was effected, a coffer dam was sunk and puddled up in the usual manner and a number of pumps prepared to clean the water therefrom in order, if possible, to build the center pier on the natural bottom; on the first attempt it was found impracticable to reduce the water within the coffer dam more than from four to five feet, this trial taking place immediately after a freshet, the water of the Falls being muddy and that within the dam, almost clear denoted the leakage to proceed by filtration of the water through

a hollow and porous gravel below the sheet piling of the coffer dam, all of which had been shod and driven four feet deep into the bed of gravel. After the failure of the first experiment it was deemed advisible to increase the number of pumps and to fill in around the coffer dam and clearly to ascertain whether the inabilily to reduce the water proceeded from a defect in the construction of the works, or from the nature of the bed of the falls. On the second trial it being found impracticable, as the water within the dam was only reduced as much lower than in the first attempt, as the increased number of pumps on Hydrostatical principles would produce; no doubt existed as to the cause, and recourse would have been immediately had to the mode (which has been since successfully adopted) of piling, had not one of our fellow-citizens, who was very sanguine in being able to reduce the water, volunteered and proposed for a fixed stipulated sum to free the dam in the space of two weeks and keep it so for a certain time, until the masonry was out of danger, agreeing at the same time in case of failure it should be at his own private expense. As considerable censure was in circulation respecting the business, which would have only been increased by a refusal to accede to the proposal, it was thought proper to accept, and four weeks were consumed before it was finally abandoned as impracticable. The unforseen and unfortunate difficulties arising from the nature of the bottom of the Falls have prevented the work from being finished last fall as was expected, as well as increased the expense; but being now overcome, and the necessary preparations made to recommence the work early in the spring, we can calculate on its being speedily built, and for such a sum as will not exceed your expectations, as will appear from the accounts and estimates which I shall lay before you.

As the accommodation hitherto afforded your Night Watch for the Western District will, by the removal of the old Court House, probably cease with the coming summer, it will probably be by you deemed expedient to purchase a lot and provide a permanent establishment for that purpose.

The City Springs upon the lots purchased in conformity to a resolve passed at your last February Session have been improved in such manner as to excite the admiration of all strangers who visit our City, and are now capable of furnishing a copious supply of pure and wholesome water, and from the elegant and substantial workmanship of every part of the improvement bid fair to be as permanent as useful.

Considerable difficulties have been experienced in procuring and repairing the necessary materials, and in consequence thereof great delay in the completion of the work. We are greatly indebted to the persevering industry and indefatigable exertions of the three gentlemen appointed to superintend for the state of perfection to which they are brought, who are prepared to lay before you an accurate account of all the sums, paid and expended, as their future operations must be regulated by your wishes and the extent of your appropriation

To facilitate the Water Company in introducing a supply of water to every part of the City, an Ordinance was passed authorizing the digging and opening at their pleasure any of the streets, lanes and alleys of the City, and enjoining the restoring the same forthwith to their former condition. This privilege as used, has been attended with great inconvenience to our citizens, and sometimes endangered their lives by the unnecessary length of time the streets have been suffered to remain open, has greatly increased the expense and diffiulty of cleaning the streets, and has occasioned much unmerited censure being besotwed on the Board of City Commissioners for a supposed neglect of duty. It is only justice to your executive officers that they be invested with ample powers to enable them to fulfill such duties as are generally expected from them which cannot be done without modifying the powers hitherto granted to the Water Company. In severe weather it is easy to excite the sympathetic feelings of the benevolent citizens of Baltimore, and raise by way of contribution such sums of money as the necessities of the moment call for, a number of our fellow-citizens have been actively engaged for the last ten days in collecting and distributing for

the relief of the poor the sums that are always cheerfully bestowed for that purpose, which I trust from the pains that have been taken will be rendered as useful and extensively beneficial as possible. But when we reflect that this mode is partial oppressive and inadequate to the extent of our wishes, you will see the necessity of endeavoring to devise some means of providing a permanent establishment. Many who solicit our charity are in the full enjoyment of health and strength, and plead as their only excuse want of employment; if from such, labor in return for the charity bestowed, could be required, the number would be greatly diminished, and provision might be easily made for those who by sickness or disease, by the infirmities of old age or the imbecility of youth, are rendered incapable of taking care of themselves

As usual the register will lay before you his annual accounts for investigation, and it gives me pleasure to observe, that notwithstanding the unusual drafts on account of the new Bridge and City Springs, these accounts exhibit a balance in favor of the City of four thousand one hundred and fifty-six dollars and seventy-two cents.

EDWARD JOHNSON.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.
Baltimore, February 11, 1811.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

Few objects present themselves to me as necessary to engage the attentions of the City Council at the present session; the regulations established for the improvement of the City, by the removal of the many nuisances with which it formally abounded, and the great expense hitherto incurred may be considered as nearly at an end, a very small part of the appropriation for this object, having been found requisite.

The preservation of the health of our City by our quarantine laws, which, in the opinion of many, prevent the introduction of infectious disease from abroad, imposing no unnecessary restrictions on commerce, are cheerfully acquiesced in by all from the experience we have had, may be pronounced to answer the intended purpose, and amply to compensate the annual expenditure for their support. It would be a pleasing circumstance, if in reviewing our general system, every regulation adopted to the public benefit, could be attended with equal success, but when we reflect that a great part of our Harbor and Basin, which a few years since, was filled with vessels of great burthen, will now scarcely admit the smallest bay craft, and most anxious solicitude ought to be awakened and every additional means which can be devised, employed for its preservation and improvement.

On account of the new Stone Bridge from Baltimore to York Street, the City Commissioners have drawn from the Treasury, the last year, seven thousand three hundred and seventy-one dollars and eight cents, which, in addition to fifteen thousand, three hundred and fifty-nine dollars and eight cents expended the last year, makes the total amount of twenty-two thousand, seven hundred and thirty dollars and sixteen cents,

from which may be fairly deducted materials and implements which may be again employed, and cost upwards of one thousand dollars; Jones Falls, as located and bounded by the Board of Port Wardens in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-four, is restricted to the width of sixty feet from this Bridge upwards to Griffith's Bridge, which, being less than the entent of the arches, as prescribed by the Ordinance, directing the erection thereof, will enable the holders of lots immediately adjoining, by wharfing out and improving their property to the extent of its limits, considerably to obstruct the passage of the water through the arches; the lot binding on the north side of the eastern abutment is owned by St. Paul's Parish, and the gentlemen composing the vestry have delayed the improvement of the same, as contemplated by them, with a view to accommodate the public, and for a reasonable compensation are willing to sell to the City such parts thereof as you may deem requisite and necessary.

Agreeably to a resolve of the City Council at their last session, the number of fire-plugs has been augmented to forty, by an annual appropriation for this object and a careful distribution of them throughout the City, they will certainly afford such a supply of water as to enable the many well regulated Fire Companies already established, to arrest the progress of any fire that may take place. Several new Hose Companies have been formed, and their zeal and exertions justify them in expecting the same attention the Council has hitherto manifested, by preventing their incurring individual expense, as their object is the public good.

The ruinous state of decay of two of our present wooden bridges, will, in the course of the ensuing summer, render a thorough repair thereof indispensable, which the City Commissioners haved delayed the commencement of, in order to ascertain the views and wishes of the Council, should you resovle to erect Stone Bridges in lieu of them, and commit the superintendance to the Board of Commissioners, in addition to the arduous and important duties already devolved upon them, their whole time will be required for the public service.

The great increase of idle and wandering poor, who have of late, infested our City, is as alarming as it is distressing, and points out the necessity of a well regulated Vagrant law, co-extensive at least with the cause, and I have the fullest confidence that this subject is represented by you to the General State Legislature, will receive the attention its important nature demands.

I have long indulged the pleasing hope on this occasion to have been able to congratulate you on a change in the aspect of our commercial concerns, which, by affording activity to the industry and enterprising of our fellow citizens, greatly augment the resources of our City, but, though in this I have been disappointed, there yet remains ample grounds for felicitating you on the numerous blessings of a bountiful Providence towards the United States in general, and in particular as to the health, peace, and growing prosperity of our own City.

As usual, the Register will lay before you his annual accounts for investigation, which on account of the extensive appropriations and payments for the last year, exhibit a balance in favor of the City of seven hundred and seventy-four dollars and forty-one cents only.

EDWARD JOHNSON.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

Mayor's Office,
Baltimore, February 10th, 1812.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

In conformity to a resolve of the City Council directing an examination and accurate admeasurement of all wharves which I should have reason to believe do extend beyond the limits prescribed by the proper authority and to report the same to the City Council, I have caused a complete plat by actual admeasurement of all wharves to the westward of Jones' Falls to be made, showing the several permissions to extend the same, and the encroachments that have taken place; to have complied with the strict letter of the resolve would have required a similar admeasurement and plat of all property on Jones' Falls which has been prevented in consequence of the late period at which the lines and boundaries of Jones' Falls have been established and returned to me, as particularly directed by an Ordinance passed at your last session, (in February), the work is progressing, and I flatter myself to be able during the present session to lay before you a complete plat of the several wharves and encroachments in that part of the City.

Harford Street has been accurately surveyed and graded as directed by a resolve of the City Council at the last annual session, and a very ingenious and accurate representation of the best and most practicable method of improving the same has been prepared by Mr. John Davis, which from its intrinsic excellence and minute investigation is so well calculated to interest the attention of the Council, as to render any observations on this subject from me unnecessary.

The Stone Bridge at Pratt and Queen Streets has been contracted for and is in such state of forwardness as to insure its final completion early in the spring; it is to cost the City twenty thousand dollars, sixteen thousand whereof are already paid. The very great extent of the appropriations for the last year has kept the treasury so poor as to render it inconvenient to expend three thousand dollars in purchasing and providing the necesary materials for the erection of a Stone Bridge at Gay Street, in addition to which no suitable and convenient place of deposit could be procured, the handling of such heavy materials a second time would be attended with great expense, and experience has taught us that stone and other materials that may be required can be readily contracted for and furnished as fast as they can be consumed, the progress of the work will certainly not be retarded thereby.

A very efficient Vagrant Law for our City has been passed by the Legislature of Maryland. The Judges of the Criminal Court and Mayor are authorized to enforce its provisions, and with due vigilance we shall be able, probably, to get rid of the many pick-pockets and other vagabonds, who have, for some time past, infested our City. New and very important powers are by this law devolved upon the Judges of the Criminal Court, and by a special act of the Legislature, you are authorized to levy a tax, in addition to your fifteen shilling tax, to the amount of six hundred dollars as an additional compensation to the Chief Judge of the Criminal Court, which only increases the taxes on the assessable property within the City six cents in every hundred pounds.

The City Hospital under the direction of Doctors McKenzie, and Smythe, by virtue of their lease has been brought to such a state of perfection as admirably to answer the benevolent intention of its first establishment; the centre building and one wing are nearly finished, and the cells intended for the care and custody of maniacs are constructed upon the latest and most approved plan, and will afford every possible comfort and convenience to that wretched class of our fellow-mortals. To this institution, which owes its origin to the

purest principles of philanthrophy, the fostering hand of the State of Maryland has been extended and a donation of fifteen thousand dollars has been granted, and I may add that we are indebted to the personal exertions of Doctors McKenzie and Smythe for the present state of improvement of the building and the liberal donation from the state, they having industriously employed every leisure moment that could be spared from their professional duties in accomplishing this desirable object. Their exertions are certainly to be the more highly valued, as every idea of private emolument is very distant. The two lines of opposition stages running from Philadelphia have been for sometime past in the practice of making a race ground of our streets, and it is entirely owing to accident that we have not to deplore some sad catastrophe arising from their very improper conduct; no representation from me has hitherto been able to restrain it. Our law on the subject is inadequate to this purpose and a heavy fine is well merited by the drivers who are guilty of such atrocious conduct, and the proprietors of the stages should also be made responsible, as there is just cause to believe that they not only tolerate but encourage it.

As usual the Register has prepared, and will lay before you, his accounts for investigation from which it will appear that our future resources are encumbered with a debt of sixteen thousand dollars to the bank, and that we have in the treasury seventeen hundred and eighty-two dollars and sixty cents only.

EDWARD JOHNSON.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.
Baltimore February 8, 1813.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

In the annual communication which official duty imposes, I trust I shall be excused if I again bring to the view and notice of the Council the subject of the Harbor and Basin. The interest and future prosperity of the City of Baltimore demand that every attention should be paid to this interesting object. Happily situated at the head of the finest bay in the world, and commanding the resources of a very extensive and fruitful back country, Baltimore may reasonably calculate upon attaining a pre-eminence among the commercial cities of the Union. These great advantages must be necessarily diminished, if not totally sacrificed by any material interruption in our navigation, and it affords a pleasing reflection that the resources of our City have been such, during the four last years, as to have enabled us to have expended upwards of one hundred thousand dollars in the erection of useful, indispensable and permanent improvements, which, having been accomplished, will leave the future income of our City to be applied to the improvement of the navigation and any other equally interesting objects. A lot fronting forty-eight feet on Holliday Street and running back one hundred and fifty feet to North Street, with the several improvements thereon, has been purchased from the German Lutheran Congregation for the sum of eight thousand dollars.

A convenient and comfortable Watch House has been erected on North Street, and the present building on Holliday Street with a trifling alteration will accommodate the Council and

the several offices of the City, until the state of our treasury will justify the building of an elegant City Hall, for which purpose, from its central situation and extent, it is well calculated.

Gay Street Bridge, as directed by Ordinance of the last session of the City Council, has been undertaken and is nearly completed, and when finished, will cost fourteen thousand dollars, of which sum, ten thousand, eight hundred and eighteen dollars have already been paid.

The several appropriations of the last yeai have been drawn from the treasury and expended, except in a few cases where it was found impracticable to effect the objects and intentions of the council which have been delayed for your future consideration.

By an act passed at the late session of the General Assembly, we are authorized to employ from twenty five to one hundred Bailiffs, whose duty it shall be to aid the civil authority in maintaining and preserving the good order and peace of the City; to fix the compensation they shall receive and to establish their badges of authority.

As usual, the Register will lay before you his annual accounts for investigation, from which it will appear that to meet the appropriations of the last year, the debt to the Bank of Baltimore has been increased four thousand dollars, and the balance in the treasury is only seventeen hundred and eighty dollars.

EDWARD JOHNSON.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.
Baltimore, February 14, 1814.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

In conformity with my duty at this time, pointed out by our City Charter, some subjects of uncommon importance present themselves, which I shall bring in review for your most serious consideration. It was foreseen as early as the month of May last, that in addition to the means of defence which the General Government (with a just regard to the equal claim of every section of the Union, to a distribution of those means) could furnish to the City of Baltimore and of those also, which the State Government might feel disposed to extend, the City itself should, by the active exertion of its own resources, be prepared to meet the emergency; an appropriation of the sum of twenty thousand dollars was accordingly made by the City Council, and placed at the disposal of a committee of supply, consisting of seven gentlemen in conjunction with myself. But it was soon found that this sum was very inadequate to complete the preparations for defence, which it became incumbent on the City to provide; the committee of supply, therefore recommended to their fellow citizens to elect four delegates from each ward and from each of the precincts, to meet in general committee, to take into consideration the steps necessary to be pursued in the impending crisis. The recommendation of the Committee of Supply was promptly complied with, and the delegates chosen attended to a man for the purpose of consultation. These Delegates impressed with the necessity of active and extensive preparations, unanimously resolved that it was expedient to borrow a sum, not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars, on the credit of the Corporation, from the several

monied institutions of our City, which, with a liberality highly honorable to these institutions, they were willing to advance on such pledge as the city was able to give, trusting to events to enable the City to fulfil any engagements made, although well acquainted with the restricted nature of the power possessed. These Delegates representing the feelings and sentiments of the citizens of both City and precincts, also unanimously recommended an application to the Legislature of our State, then shortly expected to be in session, for permission to the City Council to impose an equal and general tax on all property, real and personal, in both City and precincts, to defray the extraordinary expenses which were about to be incurred for the common defence, and which might be disallowed by the General and State Governments. Your predecessors, in conformity to the recommendation of the General Delegates from the City and precincts, passed a resolve authorizing the borrowing on the credit of the Corporation, from any of the banks of the City, a sum not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars, pledging the credit of the City and precincts for its repayment; a petition also having been presented to the citizens for signatures, upwards of fifteen hundred names were subscribed to it, of those upon whom the tax in question would principally fall, (and which, it is believed might have been almost as unanimously signed as it was unanimously recommended, had there been sufficient time to present it to all our citizens,) and forwarded to the Delegates from the City of Baltimore, to be presented to the House of Delegates. When it is considered that the City of Baltimore had in these proceedings undertaken to do that which the State Government is by the very nature of our compact, solemnly pledged to perform, and that the only boon which the City requested was to grant its humble prayer that it might be permitted upon, and with the consent of its citizens to pay the debt which it had voluntarily incurred for its own defence, when we further consider that so far from any party feelings being mingled with any of the measures that had been resorted to; every political distinction in the city had been swallowed up in a sense of the common

danger which equally and alike menaced all, and that the most cordial co-operation existed between both parties as to the means of defence, of payment and of application to the Legislature when it was not even intimated that the money borrowed had been improvidently or injudiciously expended; nor denied that without those means of defence, (which the State Government could not supply, and the General Government was under the obligation to regulate with a view to the equal rights of other exposed parts,) this great and flourishing City, the emporium of the State, might, in all probability have been exposed to all the horrors of sack and conflagration.

I know not in what terms to express my astonishment at the refusal of the House of Delegates to grant the prayer of the City to be permitted to redeem its credit. This refusal so strange and unexpected was not alleviated by any declaration that the State bound to the defence of all its parts, would at some future day take upon itself the payment of these disbursements made in defence of the City, nor was the Legislative will merely suspended until a more full enquiry could be made into the expediency of the expenditure and the dispositions of the citizens of Baltimore to its repayments; but it was refused on the principle that the General Government being bound to provide for the defence of the State at large and consequently of the City of Baltimore, it would be a dangerous precedent to permit the City in its corporate capacity to raise and expend money for its own protection. At the late session of the Legislature of our own State the representatives from the City of Baltimore again urged the question in the House of Delegates, which upon this occasion abandoned the principle which had before been acted upon and actually passed a Bill, granting the prayer of the City; the succeeding day a reconsideration of the Bill was moved and carried and clauses and conditions totally unconnected with the object of the petition ingrafted into it, which were deemed so inadmissible as to induce the friends to the Bill to vote against it. The hopes, the wishes and just expectations of the citizens of Baltimore, are thus again by party spirit prostrated, and the City must continue

with its corporate credit pledged for the money which has been borrowed of the Banks without the power of redeeming the pledge. Thus situated it is for the wisdom of the Council to adopt such measures as may be required by the peculiar emergency in which the City is placed with little or no means of defence provided by the State for its protection during the approaching season of hostile operation, with great probability of a serious attempt by the enemy and labouring under the embarrassment and pressure of a debt which we are restricted from the common privilege of paying, it will require the active and zealous exertions of every good citizen to ward off the impending danger. Under these trying circumstances, however, it is gratifying to reflect that there is a public spirit and vigor existing in our citizens which will cause them to endure every privation, to submit to every sacrifice which may be required to enable them to meet and repel any attempt of our implacable foe.

Several important laws, materially affecting the interest of the City have been passed by the Legislature at their late session, by one of which the transit duty on goods passing over the public wharves as imposed by an Ordinance passed at the last February session, is destroyed and the City Council restricted from laying similar duties in future; from the whole context of the law, the intention of the Legislature is manifest but as some of our citizens give such a construction to the law as defeats the whole of our regulations respective wharfage and probably may give trouble, it will be advisable to revise the several Ordinances on the subject and make them conform to the provisions of the law of the Legislature; an act also of the Legislature to fix and regulate the quality of Silver-plate manufactured and sold or offered for sale in the City of Baltimore has passed. Under the provisions of this law it is an incumbent duty of the Council to appoint an assay officer, the stamp or mark to be used by the said officer to be submitted to the Council for approbation. For the purpose of erecting an arsenal in the City of Baltimore, the Legislature has authorized the raising by way of Lottery the

sum of one hundred thousand dollars. The managers named will probably attempt the effecting the object contemplated, should they succeed the proceeds of the Lottery are to pass over to the Register to be applied by the City Council in purchasing a lot and erecting suitable buildings for the purpose; and should a surplus remain to establish a permanent fund to defray the annual expenses incident thereto. In conformity to a resolve of the Council passed the 21st May last, the several appropriations therein mentioned were suspended and no money drawn from the Treasury excepting such sums as were requisite to fulfil contracts previously made, and for which services had been rendered. By virtue of your resolve, I have borrowed of the Banks of our City for the use of the Committee of Supply on the credit of the Corporation, eighty thousand dollars, a regular account of the disbursement of which, authenticated by proper documents, is prepared to be laid before you for investigation.

The Spring at the head of the Basin (usually called Clopper's,) has been examined by the Board of City Commissioners, in conjunction with Mr. John Davis, who are of the opinion that it can be reclaimed, and made to afford a copious supply of pure and wholesome water. For further information on this interesting subject, I must beg leave to refer you to their report herewith transmitted.

From the manner after which the duties of the Board of Port Wardens lately established, have been discharged, we may reasonably calculate upon the most beneficial results to the future security and improvement of our Harbour and Basin.

Considerable progress has been made in devising a general plan. Several plats and estimates accompanied by a detailed account of the acts and proceedings of the board, will be laid before you for your advice and approbation.

As usual the Register has prepared and will lay before you his accounts for investigation, from which it will appear that our future resources are incumbered with an increased debt of five thousand dollars to the Bank of Baltimore, making

in the whole now due the Bank, the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, and that there remained in the Treasury on the 31st day of January last nine hundred and fifty eight dollars and two cents.

EDWARD JOHNSON.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.
Baltimore, February 13, 1815.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

The communication annually required from the Mayor to the City Council, giving an account of the general state of the City with an accurate statement of the sums of money received and expended, to be published for the information of the citizens, embracing also a review of the proceedings of the several boards of City Officers, and the progress or completion of works, as directed by the Ordinances of the City Council, and recommending the adoption of regulations and improvements for the general benefit of the city, will, in consequence of the situation in which we are placed, be confined to narrow limits. With scanty means it will be idle to propose the undertaking important objects, and excepting the improvement of the Harbour and Basin, every extra expenditure of the funds of the City has been postponed. The Port Wardens having contracted for the building of a second machine for deepening and cleaning the Harbour and Basin (which was in great forwardness and would have sustained much injury unless finished,) and also for a considerable supply of timber for the improvement of the Cove, have been under the necessity of drawing heavily upon the City Treasury for those objects and it will rest with you to limit and direct their future progress in this important work.

The sum expended for watching and lighting the City is less than had been contemplated, and was occasioned by suspending the lighting of the lamps during the short summer nights, and reserving the supply of oil for the winter season, from which some inconvenience was felt and much idle clamour

excited, which I thought it better to endure than subject the City to the deprivation of light during long winter nights, as a sufficient supply of oil for both summer and winter could not have been obtained at any price or upon any terms.

By a resolve of the City Council passed the 10th day of May, 1813, the Committee of Supply was authorized to obtain on loan from any of the Banks of the City any sum not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars, on the credit of the corporation and the precincts, to be expended in the defence of said City and precincts; the repayment of which was guaranteed by said resolve, in pursuance whereof a loan of eighty thousand dollars was obtained from the monied institutions of Baltimore; and there existing at present no provision by law for the payment of the interest thereon, it is certainly due to the liberality displayed by the Banks that funds should be provided at least equal to the punctual payment of the interest, until some means can be devised for the total extinguishment of the debt. An application to the Legislature of our State at its late session to invest the City Council with power to impose a tax on the property of the City and precincts agreeably to the prayer of the petition formerly presented, for the payment of this debt has been renewed, and again rejected.

A Law has been passed at the late session of the General Assembly of our State, authorizing the City Council to adopt a scheme of a Lottery, to raise thirty thousand dollars in one or more classes, for the purpose of procuring a suitable lot and buildings, to be called a "House of Industry," for the purpose of affording relief by giving employment to the poor of the City, subject to such rules and regulations as the corporation shall from time to time deem it expedient to establish; and if by such an institution the frequent calls made upon our fellow citizens can be dispensed with, the very objectionable mode of raising money by lottery, may be justified by the extreme urgency and necessity of the case. In the month of August last having called together the different Presidents of the Fire Companies to consult and adopt efficient regulations for the extinguishment of fires that might be occasioned by the bombardment of our City, by the

enemy, which we at the time had serious cause to apprehend, I issued a circular addressed to a number of gentlemen of our City who by reason of their age were exempt from military duty to meet the Presidents of the Fire Companies for the purpose of consultation, who were kind enough to attend to the call, and who were unanimous in advising me to recommend to the inhabitants of the City and precincts to meet at their respective places of holding Elections, and choose three persons from each ward and precinct to compose a Committee of Vigilance and Safety; which was immedialely done, and on the part of the inhabitants of both the City and precincts promptly complied with.

As every notoriety has been given, through the medium of the press of the proceedings of this body, I deem it unnecessary to enter into a minute detail thereof.

The important aid which the military authorities acknowledge to have received from the committee affords the strongest proof of the judgment with which its members were selected.

Thanks to the *God* of Battles, the fortitude of our citizens, and to the prudence, judgment and heroism of those entrusted with our defence, this important and populous City has not only been preserved from the horrors which have invariably marked the progress of our ruthless foe, but has been thus preserved with less of sacrifice and of suffering than could have been anticipated by the most sanguine of our fellow citizens.

When it is recollected that we sustained an incessant bombardment for twenty-six hours from nearly all the Bomb Vessels, which belong to the "thousand ships" of Great Britian; that we were simultaneously attacked by a powerful and veteran land army, flushed with recent success, and that we were principally defended by "militia and volunteers," we may be allowed after acknowledging the especial aid of a kind Providence, to boast of having been the first to check the daring attempts of our haughty foe in these waters, and of having set an example which has been closely and most successfully followed in another section of our beloved country.

As usual the Register has prepared and will lay before you his accounts for investigation, from which it will appear that our future resources are incumbered with an increase debt of four thousand dollars to the Bank of Baltimore, making in the whole now due to the Bank the sum of twenty-nine thousand dollars, and that there remained in the Treasury on the 31st of January last fourteen hundred and forty- seven dollars and seventy cents.

EDWARD JOHNSON.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, February 12, 1816.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

Intending to avail myself of the opportunity afforded me by the annual communication which duty requires of me, of announcing through you to my fellow citizens, my determination of retiring from the office of Mayor, at the expiration of the term with which their kind confidence has honored me for the last eight years, I cannot more forcibly express my gratitude than by endeavoring to point out a defect in the Charter of Incorporation, which, unless remedied will ever prevent the Mayor of this City from discharging the arduous and important duties of the office, to his own satisfaction or with the entire approbation of his fellow citizens.

In every well regulated community of the extent to which the City of Baltimore has now attained, it is essential not only that proper ordinances should be enacted but that the penalties for a breach or violation thereof should be rigidly and impartially enforced and that competent and accountable officers, especially charged with the execution thereof should be appointed, amenable and removable at pleasure, for neglect of duty. Without a complete control of the peace officers, many of our most important and useful regulations will ever remain a dead letter in our Statute Book, as few of our fellow-citizens will incur the odium attached to the invidious character of an informer.

It has often been to me the source of serious and unavailing regret, in having been imformed of assemblages of boys and other disorderly characters (frequently on the Sabbath) being engaged in frivolous and sometimes wicked amusements to the great annoyance of the well disposed part of the community.

In the present state of the powers of our police, it is an evil without a remedy; and as there is at present no prospect of obtaining the appointment and complete control of the constables, without which their active and zealous co-operation cannot be depended on, I take the liberty of recommending to your serious consideration the provisions of an act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at November session, 1812, authorizing and empowering the Mayor and City Council to appoint such a number of Bailiffs, not exceeding one hundred, as they in their discretion shall deem expedient. In the New Exchange, contemplated to be immediately erected, a suitable number of rooms for the accommodation of the City Council can be provided and the managers have no objection to a subscription on the part of the City, on the same terms and conditions as granted individual stockholders.

Believing it to be the interest of the City to embrace the present opportunity of securing a permanent establishment, I recommend an appropriation for the purpose.

The lot now held, which was purchased for a City Hall can readily be disposed of and will raise a considerable part of the funds that will be required for this important object.

A Law has been passed by the General Assembly of Maryland at their late session, authorizing a Lottery to raise a sum of money, not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, clear of all expenses. One-half of the net proceeds of which is to be appropriated under the direction of the managers named in the law, to the deepening of Jones' Falls and walling the public streets binding thereon; the other half in conveying a stream of water that passes down Harford Street in a culvert or tunnel, below the surface of the street into the cove, and also provides that any vacancy that may occur in the Board of Managers, by resignation or otherwise, shall be supplied by the City Council.

The subject of watching and lighting the City claims particular attention. The exorbitant price of oil for the last three years has exhausted so large a portion of the annual appropriation, as to prevent any attempt to render it more efficient.

I deem it necessary to inform you, that at present there are only twelve Watchmen, who have to light all the lamps and patrol the streets, from Harford Street to the western extremity of the City, who are on duty every night, and receive twenty-two dollars per month, as compensation. Should our funds be able to bear it, more men and better wages are requisite to enable this establishment to answer the just expectations of our fellow-citizens.

The great number of suits at law depending between the City and some of its citizens, have proved a heavy tax upon our funds, and if it were practicable to end them all by a reasonable compromise, much vexation and trouble would be prevented.

In the city of New York, the public wharves are farmed out, and in consequence thereof are much more productive than ours. As these wharves have been the fruitful source of litigation for some years, an attempt to end all disputes, on reasonable terms, is well worth the experiment. On the subject of the Harbour and the Basin, and the improvement of the Cove, the report of the Board of Port Wardens will account for the expenditure of twenty-two thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven dollars and sixty-five cents; and minutely detailing their proceedings supersedes the necessity of any observations on my part.

In conformity to a resolve of the Council at the last February session, a complete compilation of the City Ordinances has been prepared and published by Mr. Samuel Young, with notes expressive of the contents of said Ordinances, and with a copious and correct index, and marginal notes to the whole.

As usual the Register has prepared, and will lay before you his accounts for investigation, from which it will appear that our funds have been so productive as to have enabled us to pay to the Bank of Baltimore seventeen thousand dollars, reducing the debt from twenty-nine thousand to twelve thousand dollars, and leaving a balance in the Treasury of two thousand and fifty three dollars and eighty four cents.

Considering the present as the last official communication I shall ever have it in my power to make to the City Council, I should not do justice to my feelings were I not to express the great pleasure and satisfaction I have ever derived from the able and faithful services of your present Register, whose diligence, accuracy and attention entitle him to a continuance of the confidence hitherto so justy reposed in him.

EDWARD JOHNSON.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, February 17, 1817.

The Members of the City Council:

Gentlemen:—The distinguished honor conferred on me by my fellow-citizens has placed me in a situation that renders it my duty to address you on your annual meeting.

I have the sincere pleasure to congratulate you on the health, happiness and tranquility of our City.

From the length of time that the City has been incorporated, and the pains that have been taken to enact necessary laws, but few observations worthy your notice can be expected from me; nevertheless, some additional restrictions and regulations I conceive necessary to promote the comfort of our citizens and the aggrandizement of our City, viz:

The Bridge commonly called Peter's Bridge is now in such a state of decay that to expend money in its repair would not be judicious.

The manner in which the appropriation for cleaning the streets has been applied, does not remove the complaint of dirty streets. I would suggest the propriety of the Corporation owning as many carts and horses as might be necessary to remove the filth accumulated in the City, and that a proportion of them should be employed for the purpose of receiving daily from each and every house the dirt and offal that might be accumulated in each family, and that none should be allowed to be thrown into the streets.

The citizens are much annoyed, their lives frequently in danger and the pavement much injured by the unwarrantable speed with which the drays, carts and wagons pass in the streets. It appears to me that, loaded or unloaded, they ought not to be allowed to go out of a walk.

Many of the streets require to be repaved, partly owing to the before-mentioned cause, partly to the streets being paved with stones of a great variety of sizes, and partly age. It must be obvious to every one that the nearer the stones are of a size the more regular the pavement will wear; some streets may be paved with large, others with small stone.

The upper part of the Centre Market is considerably impaired; the roof has decayed and requires to be covered anew. I would suggest the propriety of the foundation being raised to admit a curbstone, so that the market be eight or ten inches above the street — that the shed part be extended three feet further out, which would give the country people a shelter in bad weather, and that the foot-pavement next the houses be made two and a half to three feet wider—then the tails of the wagons might be turned to it, which would not only make it much more agreeable both to buyer and seller, but leave that space in front of the wagons clear for all that might be brought in or taken out of market without incommoding the citizens. These alterations would require that Market Space be repaved; and I beg leave to submit to your inspection a plan for that purpose — the stones are to be square and even faced, of a sufficient thickness to sanction the idea that the pavement will not require repair for a century. It would be easily kept clean and an ornament to the City.

Hanover market has now been completed. Its situation is an eligible one, and it appears to me only to require to be finished to make it the most commodious and handsome I have ever seen, with the exception that the street on the north side ought to be public. I am informed it is private property.

The Butchers are in the habit on other than market days, of leaving their carts and horses in Market Space, abreast of their stalls; they are not only in the way of the scavengers, but they render ineffectual the pains taken to keep Market Space clean; the public ground that is unoccupied, from the south side of Water Street to the head of McElderry's Dock, might be a proper place for them to be deposited on market days, or at any other time that the owners may attend the market.

The Ordinance for cleaning the streets of snow meets public approbation; it is defective, nevertheless, but only as relates to the unimproved or unoccupied property. It appears desirable that in all streets where the footways are paved with brick or stone, that the proprietors of the property ought to be compelled to have the snow removed, and that the Corporation ought to have that on the cross streets and footways of the bridges also removed.

Considerable difficulty arises in keeping the streets and footways from being incumbered with merchandize and empty packages, owing to an indulgence for them to remain a limited time in the street. Nothing will induce some men to restrain their disposition to impose on the public, but the fear that they will have to pay for it. I believe that no more indulgence ought to be given than sufficient time to pass the goods from the dray or cart into the store.

Assize on Bread, although of the first importance, appears not to be fairly explained except as to the weight of the loaf, the price of which I believe ought to be in proportion to the price of flour, or the weight of the loaf proportioned to the price paid for it.

The Drivers of Hacks take unwarrantable liberties and advantages of strangers, to the disgrace of our Corporation regulations. It appears to me that from the time they come on the stand they are public property, but neither to abuse or be abused, which can only be remedied by prescribing rates and distances by which they shall be governed.

I think it worthy the reflection of the Council, whether the Powder Magazine is not too near the City. When full of powder, as it may be, should it take fire by lightning or otherwise the survivors would forever regret that it had not been more remote from the city.

Carts, Drays and Wagons are frequently left in the streets all night; it would appear that this ought to be prohibited.

The manner of providing for the Poor appears very objectionable. It is not only exceedingly troublesome, but the expense falls on a very few in proportion to our population. It appears

to be well worthy the reflection of the Council to ascertain whether a better plan cannot be adopted in future. I would suggest the propriety of an immediate attempt to establish a House of Industry on a large scale. There is already about two thousand six hundred dollars raised to be appropriated in that way, and an Act of the General Assembly to raise by Lottery thirty thousand dollars, which, in consequence of the late war, has not been acted upon. The tickets of such a Lottery would sell in preference to any other; the citizens generally would subscribe liberally for an Institution of this kind in preference to our present mode ; it would be only necessary for many that now ask alms, to know that such provision was made for them and they would take care of themselves. Some decided step ought to be taken to put a stop to those tippling shops, under the denomination of retail grocers, from whence the principal part of the distressed families may trace the origin of their poverty

There has not, until lately, been more than twenty-four Watchmen at one time on duty for the safety of the City. I find that some of them, in completing their duty, have to perform a tour of more than a mile. It will not be expected that double that number can do more than is necessary in discharging their duty as Watchmen. On the 15th ult. I doubled the Watch, and it now remains for the Council to decide what number shall be permanent Watchmen hereafter.

Some additional restrictions are required to prevent vessels forcing their way into docks that are already so glutted that there remains no pass for light vessels to depart. This more particularly applies to Smith's Dock and the New Dock. When there is anything like a want of room in either of those Docks no vessel ought to be allowed to enter until permission is first obtained from the Harbor Master. He is the only one whose business it will be to know the situation of the Dock. Nothing will keep them from obstructing at times, the pass, except heavy fines. We have had a recent convincing proof of that: Our late Harbor Master, in the execution of his duty in the entrance of the New Dock, was killed by one of the boatmen. This calls aloud for more energetic measures.

The Corporation has yet the power of securing for the use of the City two very valuable springs of water. I beg leave to call your very serious attention to this subject before it is too late. One at the corner of German and Eden streets, on the property of Mr. James Sterett. It has at present a great supply of water, and General Stricker, who has a number of very productive springs of water a little above that, has authorized me to say that he will permit you to convey all the water free of any charge by him to such place as you may designate. Those Waters can be united to the other spring at very little expense. The other spring has long been known by the name of Clopper's Spring, in a very populous part of the City where good water, with the exception of this spring, is not produced.

Harford Run has a claim for money to be expended on it. In its present situation it is the greatest nuisance in our City, and keeps that part of the City — that is as pleasant and healthy as any other part of it, and abounds with the best of spring water — from being built on.

I did anticipate the pleasure of communicating to you that the Company preparing Gas for lighting the City would have been by this time so far advanced as to have exhibited satisfactory specimens of the utility of their exertions; but owing to obstacles incidental to getting into operation new inventions of such great magnitude will, until after the present severe frost, prevent them from lighting more than the lamp at the corner of Lemmon and Market Street. I have no hesitation in believing that the most sanguine expectations of the gentlemen who have undertaken this great improvement will be fully gratified, and that in a short time they will be prepared to contract for lighting the City, whenever it may be required.

The Port Wardens, to whose charge has been entrusted the improvement of the harbour, repairs to wharves, &c., will lay before you the expenditures of the last year's appropriation, and a statement of what appears to be the most necessary to be next attended to, which supersedes the necessity of my

troubling you at present on that subject, more than to inform you that the navigation is filling up very rapidly by the wash that empties into it at Washington Street.

The City Commissioners will furnish a statement of the disposal of the appropriation you made to their order last session. There are at present in the City two hundred and ninety pumps; of that number fifty-nine are out of repair, which might be attended with serious consequences, in case of fire at this time, when the hydrants are generally frozen. I would suggest the propriety of having, if not the whole that is out of repair, at least a large proportion of them kept in order.

I hand you herewith for your information two laws passed by the last General Assembly, extending on a large scale the bounds of the City.

The Register will lay before you a summary of expenditures for the last year, by which it appears that there still remains in the treasury a balance of twenty-four hundred and eight dollars and sixty-three cents.

I am respectfully, gentlemen, your humble servant,

(Signed) GEORGE STILES.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, February 9th, 1818.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

After offering you my congratulations on the much desired continued increase of a union of sentiments and actions, in our fellow-citizens, and the happy, tranquil state of the Union, I have to lament that my unremitted indisposition for the last eight months did so much incapacitate me for public business, that doubtless many things that came immediately under my province have been neglected. It must also plead my apology for not possessing so much information on the City business as might be expected.

The Memorial of the Corporation to the State Legislature, was sent under charge of Nathaniel Williams, R. B. Magruder and James Williams, Esqs. Although those gentlemen did promptly undertake, and have since with unabating vigilance attended to the interest of the city, yet the business has not sufficiently progressed for them to report thereon. When that comes to hand, it shall be laid before you.

Among the few items that I have to trouble you with is a recollection of the lamentable deluge of Jones' Falls on the 9th of August last, by which so many lives were lost, and such an immense property was destroyed. A survey of the Falls and a contemplated improvement made by Mr. Robert Mills effectually to guard against a similar disaster, is already before you, by which a dangerous nuisance would be converted into a desirable and useful ornament to our City. I strongly recommend that this shall be an item of serious consideration in the Council.

The State Legislature has passed a law for the opening and extension of Pratt Street. As there are three extensive docks to be filled independent of the quays, all of which will be executed by the Port Wardens, and offensive while in operation, I recommend that that business be commenced with as much promptness and force as the nature of it will admit. Agreeable to a resolve of the Councils last annual session, a site has been purchased on this side Holland's Ferry for a Powder Magazine. It is admirably situated on the water, four miles from the City by land, and five by water from Fort McHenry; but could be only procured by purchasing the whole tract of 266¾ acres, cost five thousand three hundred dollars. It can, however, be turned to advantage. A man of science ought to be employed to construct the Magazine, and the work commenced as soon as the weather will admit. The Lottery for the House of Industry has been drawn under the particular care of the Managers. A statement of its proceeds I hand you herewith, amounting when collected, from eighteen to twenty thousand dollars. The Trustees of the House of Industry have purchased of Martin Bowers an extensive lot adjoining Robert and Alexander McKim's cotton factory, for eight thousand five hundred dollars, for the purpose of erecting that building thereon, a plot of which I hand you herewith. The Corporation have hitherto considered the City entitled to, and have collected the wharfage or tonnage of vessels laying in New Dock and on the east side of Smith's Dock. Latterly, very considerable difficulty has arisen on that head, between some of the owners of property on the east side of Smith's Dock, and by Mr. Dugan on the New Dock, claiming a right to the wharfage, which has been opposed by the Corporation by advice of counsel, until a great number of suits have been instituted. At present no wharfage is collected by either in the New Dock, and but a proportion of that in Smith's Dock. It is necessary a decision should take place to determine to whom this wharfage is due.

Those parts of Light Street Wharf that belong to the Corporation are not productive. If a Pier on piles was run out in the centre of Camden, Conway and Barre Streets, twelve

more vessels would be accommodated, bar all disputes, be of advantage to the navigation, and pay a handsome revenue to the City.

Permanent benches and an extension of the roof over them, have been fixed to the lower part of the Centre Market. Kirb stones are wanting where the posts now are, by which means the rain from the roof will fall into the gutter outside of the occupiers of those benches, and render spouting unnecessary except at the different gangways. The annual rent of those benches will nearly pay the expense. The opposite side of the Market ought to be finished in the same manner.

The Artillery and small arms that, under the hand of Divine Providence, so recently protected our City from rapine and conflagration is now neglected, or deposited in detached bye-corners in the City, generally in insecure places. Knowing the service they rendered, I can but feel a lively interest for their preservation. I find that the Legislature in 1814 passed a law to raise one hundred thousand dollars by Lottery for the purpose of building an Arsenal in the city of Baltimore. Although opposed to Lotteries, yet for so much general good, I should be glad to see this carried into effect. I have no sight in view for the Artillery, but for the small arms I recommend for the consideration of the Council, the propriety of re-building the upper part of the Centre Market, (which is now much decayed), and over it to build one story in which all the small arms belonging to the City, can be received in perfect safety, an object much to be desired. In Market Space the whole Brigade can be drawn up, and if bad weather, can all be put under cover. Our Artillery is now in the riding school adjoining the circus, where it ought not to remain. Services rendered ought not to be forgotton, nor old friends neglected. We may want them again.

As yet 28 lamps only are lighted with gas. The Company are progressing, and are desirous to contract for the present for each lamp that they may put up. This was by Ordinance, in June, 1816, the duty of the Mayor. My present situation puts it out of my power to attend and see the effect the gas light

has. I therefore desire the Council to appoint a committee to contract with the Company. The Register will give them information of our present expense for lights.

The appropriation for the repairs of the Centre Market has been considerably exceeded. When the estimate was made by the City Commissioners, it was not by them contemplated to raise the pavement so high as it was afterwards found necessary. Neither was the brick pavement to extend its present breadth. To make those alterations agreeable to my communication, I was instrumental in the additional expenditure, which I hope will meet the approbation of the Council. Should no other alteration be made in the upper part of the house, it will be necessary to repair the roof partially, extend the shed, and fix benches similar to those already finished on the east side of the lower Market.

The sum appropriated for Howard's Hill Market was expended without completing the work.

A large sum has been expended for the purchase and improving of the Cove. The whole is now City property. The block is so far improved as to admit of an extensive one-story house. The landing and inspection of the immense quantity of herrings, shad, mackerel, &c., in the more busy parts of the City, has long been objectionable. I suggest the propriety of the Corporation causing a suitable building to be there erected, and make that the depot for all fish brought to this Market. It will also be a convenient and safe place for naval stores.

An agent has been sent to Washington to obtain reimbursement for an expenditure in the War. Owing to the accounts not being kept in the form required, he has not succeeded. Would it not be prudent to petition Congress? Surely after the services we rendered compared with the small sum expended, they would not lay it on the table.

A new Bridge is required over Harford Run in Wilke Street. The preservation of the Navigation at the back of the Point, is all important. The paving of Wilke, Washington and

County Streets, and Castle Alley, the last session, has been found of great service. It will be proper to examine what more can be done with propriety.

The committee authorized to purchase springs have not been able to contract for them. The Presidents of each Board will give information on that head.

The apartments provided for the Mayor and City Council, are not such as to do honor to our City. For the Mayor's Office particularly, some respectable and extensive apartments are absolutely necessary. At least one item of importance remains unnoticed, but fearful that I might not devise the best plan for raising the ways and means, I leave it to the better judgment of the Council.

The Register as usual will lay his annual documents before you, leaving a balance of two thousand eight hundred and ninety-one dollars and three cents in the treasury, independent of sixty-eight thousand one hundred and forty-four dollars and sixty-eight cents borrowed during the last year on certificates of funded City stock for the purchase of City property, there has been borrowed fifty-three thousand five hundred dollars in aid of the City revenue, making the present debt due by the City two hundred and twelve thousand six hundred and forty-four dollars and sixty-six cents.

With due respect, I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

GEORGE STILES.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.
Baltimore, January 11, 1819.

The Members of the City Council:

Gentlemen:—Not on account of the clamour of some few dissatisfied persons against the improvements lately made in our City, but on account of the peculiar scarcity of money, I shall restrain from calling your attention at this time, to many objects I think worthy your notice.

South Street, that was ordered by the State Legislature to be opened, has progressed rapidly according to law, with the exception of a stone bridge built over Tanner's Run in place of a wooden one, because the stone bridge cost considerably less money. A wooden bridge of 175 feet span, roofed in, is built over the Falls of said Street for ten thousand five hundred dollars.

The law passed by the State Legislature at the request of this Corporation for the opening and extension of Pratt Street has been strictly adhered to, and progressed as rapidly as the nature of the business would admit. It became necessary to put temporary foot-bridges over the docks to make them less desirable for some dissatisfied persons, (who after receiving the full compensation allowed them by law), from persevering in their determination to get an injunction laid.

The Docks will be filled and the street completed, so far as the law justifies, in the ensuing summer. It now becomes necessary to petition the Legislature for a law to open and extend the street from Gay Street to Market Space.

A Tunnel Bridge the width of Wilkes Street has been built in said street, in a very substantial, workmanlike manner for six thousand dollars over Harford Run, with an additional expense of four hundred and thirteen dollars for repairing of Wilkes Street.

The Bridge from Queen Street, Fell's Point, to the City property, 210 feet in length, is nearly complete. It cost——

The improvement ordered to be made on the Falls, has progressed as fast as the nature of the business would admit; but much remains yet to be done before the adjacent parts of the City to the west can be considered out of danger.

A Bridge over the Falls at Water Street is much wanted, but has been arrested by an injunction.

Col. N. Rogers has ceded to the City a lot situated on the east side of the Belle-Air Road fronting thereon 100 feet, extending south-easterly about 600, to build a Market House on.

I have purchased from Col. Howard for three thousand dollars, agreeable to Ordinance for the use of the Corporation, a lot on the east end of Lexington Market extending to Eutaw Street.

It is proper that Louisiana Street should be extended to Eutaw Street by digging away the bank. Col. Howard has an annual claim of two hundred and twenty-eight dollars for ground rent on Lexington Market. It is unprovided for, as also those that may hereafter fall due.

A lot had been purchased for the erection of a Powder Magazine, a most desirable situation agreeable to the then prevailing opinion. The Magazine has not been built in consequence of the assurance of the principal manufacturers and dealers in powder, that the inconvenience of getting to it was so great that it would not be occupied. The contemplated expense was from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars, which ought to be expended so as to bring in a revenue. It is proper that the Council decide on a more remote deposit for the gunpowder than the present one.

I have purchased for the use of the Corporation, agreeable to Ordinance, of Mr James Sterett, a square of ground for nine thousand dollars, bounded by Eden Street, German Street and Petticoat Alley, running back 180 feet, for the purpose of securing to the City a most valuable Spring, which has been found to produce a fine flow of pure water. On General Stricker's square, adjoining the above, are a number of valuable springs, which he will permit the Corporation to take the water

from gratis. I recommend the uniting those into one reservoir. It can be disposed of, not only to produce a revenue, but add much to the comfort and health of the inhabitants in the lower parts of the City. I hand you a drawing for the improvement of the Springs, with an estimate of the expense.

I have also purchased from Mr. A. Clopper his lots, and from Mr. Brannon his lot, and obtained the titles, for the sums appropriated by Ordinance for that purpose.

I had also purchased of Col. Joseph Biays his house and lot for four thousand two hundred and fifty-three dollars, but as he could not give a title to the same, the purchase could not be closed. That lot, however, can be purchased of the heirs of Benjamin May, for the aforesaid sum of four thousand two hundred and fifty-three dollars, and is absolutely necessary to appropriate to advantage the whole property.

I herewith hand you copy of a petition from the Millers of Frederick County to the Legislature, for taking away the inspection of Flour from the City of Baltimore; also copy of a petition from sundry persons respecting the regulating and weighing of Hay. These are bold strides towards curtailing and interfering with the powers of the corporation.

The Register is prepared to lay before you a summary of receipts and expenditures of public moneys during the past year, together with an exhibit of all debts now due by the City, with a sketch of the origin and nature of their creation, whereby it will appear that the sum total now due by the City to sundry banks and individuals on notes of hand and certificates of funded stock amounts to three hundred and eighty-two thousand two hundred and fifty-five dollars and forty-three cents, and that there remained in the Treasury on the 31st December last the sum of two thousand three hundred and ninety dollars and four cents.

My continued indisposition prevented me from making an earlier communication, and still incapacitates me from adverting to many subjects which I propose to lay before you the earliest opportunity.

Respectfully, gentlemen, GEORGE STILES.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, February 23, 1819.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

Having received information of several important laws being passed by the Legislature of our State at the late session, enjoining new duties on the City Council, it was deemed advisable by me to inform myself fully respecting them, previous to presenting any communication to you. I have written to John Brewer, Esq., Clerk of the House of Delegates, and requested him to furnish copies of all laws affecting the City, and as some delay must necessarily intervene before they can be obtained I can only state such information as I have received. The most material are two laws, one directing an additional number of scales for the weighing of hay, &c., and another requiring some alteration in the Ordinance for the Inspection of Flour, together with the law herewith handed, which provides for new grading the streets affected by the opening of Pratt Street, and authorizing you to determine the manner of improving those streets, and ascertaining any extra damage that shall accrue and the mode of compensating for the same and further enable the City Council to pay the Judges, Surveyor and Clerk for duties performed under this and the former laws, and every act to be performed by you is under the express proviso that the execution of the law for opening Pratt Street shall not be suspended. The last clause of the law will enable you to alter the grade of East Street in such way as to suit the general convenience of the City.

The short time that has elapsed since my attention has been particularly directed to the situation and affairs of our City, must plead my apology that this communication is not as full and explicit as I could have wished.

EDWARD JOHNSON.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, January 3, 1820.

Gentlemen of the First
and Second Branches of the City Council:

The awful visitation with which it has pleased Divine Providence to afflict a part of our City during the past summer, and the many inconveniences experienced by all any ways connected with the general prosperity and welfare, will impose arduous and important additional duties to be performed by you during your present session, as an investigation of the probable cause of the origin and extension of the late calamitous epidemic, and providing measures of precaution relative to the future health of the City, and removing every nuisance that may be suspected of contributing to the production or extension of disease, will certainly be expected by our fellow-citizens.

With a view to be enabled to afford you all the assistance in my power, I addressed a circular to the medical gentlemen of our City requesting their opinion and advice as to the probable cause of the late epidemic, and of the existence of nuisances, either general or particular, whereby the health of the City was probably impaired, and what measures they would recommend as the cheapest, most expeditious, and most effectual for their removal. Calculating on the continuance of the strong interest felt by them on this subject, and so often manifested by their prompt attention to the many and troublesome communications from the Board of Health, during the time of the fever, with great pleasure I mention the able counsel and support which we constantly received from the medical gentlemen generally during the time of the distress. Many of them visited the Health Office almost daily, to see in what manner

they could become serviceable— not the junior members of the faculty only, but such as by age and experience are considered as at the head of the profession. Very early in the disease, anticipating its extension, preparations were made for the comfort and relief of those resident within the infected district, who were solicited and personally importuned to remove, without much effect, until the 27th day of August, when the character of the disease was clearly ascertained, and fifty-two new cases reported by the physicians. The officer commanding at the United States Arsenal near this City being applied to, freely granted as many tents as we requested, and it is with pleasure I add, that this humane act has been highly approved by the War Department. The Governor of Maryland also, spontaneously tendered the use of those belonging to the State, so far as he could influence the disposal of them, accompanying this tender with an handsome private donation for the use of the poor. Two rope walks at the eastern extremity of the City were also obtained, which with the tents were soon filled with near a thousand people. To provide for their wants and preserve order among such a population hastily collected together, and composed of almost every description of persons, a committee of eight of our worthy citizens, to wit: John Hillen, Joseph Townsend, Frederick Schaeffer, John Lee, Eli Balderson, Richard K. Heath, Lambert Thomas and George Decker, were appointed to manage the weighty concern. System immediately sprung from their exertions; order was introduced, cleanliness enforced, and provisions distributed with a bountiful yet discriminating hand; the necessary consequence of which was, that uncommon health was enjoyed, although a part of the time they were encamped was very inclement. When the sickness abated, it is but just to say, that they returned to their own houses in a very orderly manner, fully impressed with a sense of the beneficent efforts that had been made to preserve them from the pestilence and to provide them with the necessaries of life.

For the relief of the poor at the encampment the Commissioners expended articles to the value of eight thousand

three hundred and eleven dollars, of which they have rendered a minute and detailed account. The resources for this disbursement were chiefly furnished by donations in money and provisions by our own citizens, excepting the generous aids received from Georgetown (District of Columbia), Taney Town and Union Town in Frederick County. When the encampment was broken up, the articles on hand were distributed with discretion, and the amount of donations was so managed as to meet the disbursements. The highest encomium I can pass and the strongest expression of the grateful sense felt for the kind and friendly aid derived from their labours will be made by calling your attention to a report of their proceedings herewith presented to you.

In adverting to this calamity, I should commit an act of injustice were I to neglect noticing the humane and magnanimous exertions of the medical gentlemen residing in, or in the vicinity of the infected district, and those who volunteered their assistance when the disease had attained its greatest extent and malignity. Some time previous to which period, the more wealthy of our citizens and their families from within the district had removed, and very few remained except those who by the deprivation of the usual means of support, or from extreme indigence, were able to afford but little prospect to the physician of pecuniary remuneration, equal even to that which he might actually be called upon to expend from his own means on their account.

They still persevered and attended indiscriminately all, the rich and the poor, suffering no considerations to deter them from the indulgence of their philanthropic feelings. As the cases of affliction multiplied, the calls upon them increased and their natural rest was destroyed, and their anxieties strained to such a pitch, their own lives appeared likely to become a sacrifice to their disinterested zeal. I had daily interviews with them, and could not but observe that they were exhausted, completely worn-out, and it appeared to me impossible that the sick could much longer receive from them that prompt and steady attention the nature of the malady required. In this

situation of things my duty appeared obvious; supported in this, as in all the other most trying occurrences of the time, by the Board of Health, the medical gentlemen were encouraged to a continuance of their kind offices among a people whose confidence they possessed and were promised the aid and assistance of other physicians as far as I could rightfully do, and the faith of the City was pledged to indemnify them all for their attendance on the poor, which I entreated might be given as freely to them as to others. I feel it my bounden duty to declare my conviction, that the medical gentlemen located at or near the infected district and those who in the emergency stated, stepped forward to assist them with equal humanity and equal hazard to themselves, administered to such as were the especial objects of my care, as to those of others who were able to render complete remuneration.

For this generous conduct they have strong claims on our gratitude, and a right to expect pecuniary compensation for their time and money expended. I feel it a duty likewise to notice the conduct of Noah Fowler, one of the City Bailiffs, on this trying occasion, whose laborious and dangerous duties of removing the sick, and attending to the burying of the dead, were most faithfully and cheerfully performed, though at the expense of great bodily fatigue and imminent risk of the loss of life.

In the early part of the year the limited resources of the City, and the extreme difficulty of obtaining the requisite funds to meet even current expenses, occasioned a postponement of many works directed by the Ordinances of your last session to be completed.

The situation of Pratt Street, at the time a perfect nuisance, and if not duly attended to likely to become the fruitful source of disease and death, required and received the unremitted attention of the City Commissioners and Port Wardens; and the mud and other filth was so effectually covered as to remove every apprehension of danger.

The faithful and substantial manner of its completion affords general satisfaction, being entirely of stone instead of

wood, thereby removing the fears and apprehensions of many, the medical gentlemen of our City considering our decaying wooden wharves as contributing largely in the production of miasma, and thereby endangering the general health of our City. Jones' Falls, although not attended to as early as could have been wished, has been so far advanced as to quiet the uneasiness of those immediately interested, whose fears of the effects of a freshet occasioned much importunity on their part.

The Belle-Air Market House is nearly finished, and the two new City Springs have progressed to the full extent of the appropriation, and will require a further sum of money to secure what has been done and render them of any future use or importance.

A Fire Proof Powder House of the exact dimensions prescribed by Ordinance has been contracted for and finished for the sum appropriated, and it appears to me injudicious to erect samll houses for this purpose; the better way would be to wait until our means will justify the erection of one on a scale equal to our wants.

The wooden arched bridge over Jones' Falls that gave way last winter,has been rebuilt so substantially as ensures it answering our expectations; and the bridge over Tanner's Run will require a small appropriation to secure the abutments which in their present situation are in danger of being undermined and destroyed.

The watching and guarding of the City is an object of the first importance; the extended limits of the City renders it utterly impossible for the officers of the watch to superintend the conduct of the men, especially in the western district, which extends from Harford Run to the Spring Gardens. The only remedy is a division of the watch.

By a late law of the General Assembly of Maryland, the Poor-house establishment is so altered that the maintenance of poor persons belonging to the City is to be exclusively provided for by us, and it is ascertained that the sum of eighteen thousand dollars will be required the ensuing year for this purpose

An ingenious mechanical contrivance for sweeping chimneys is at this time in successful operation in the City of New York, the use of which, will be offered to you by the inventor. It has been tried here and pronounced by all who witnessed its operation, well calculated to supersede the present mode of climbing the chimney now in use. On the score of humanity it merits your serious consideration. The severe exposure inseperably connected with this employment, confined to children of tender age, is productive of calamitous consequences frequently producing incurable diseases and sometimes death.

The Philanthropist cannot but regret the moral depravity, of which we have many instances attributable to the same cause, and much more to be lamented than the bodily infirmity so obvious to all, considering it entitled to your patronage and support. I have requested of the proprietor the terms and conditions upon which it can be obtained.

As usual, the Register has prepared and will lay before you his accounts for investigation. from which it will appear that at the close of the year, there remained in the treasury a balance of two thousand, ninety dollars and one cent.

EDWARD JOHNSON.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, January 1, 1821.

To the City Council of Baltimore:

Gentlemen:—The following report of the state of the City is submitted to you in compliance with a provision contained in the ninth section of the original Charter, passed 21st December, 1796. Having been recently elected to the office of Mayor, it cannot be expected that a very comprehensive view of the precise state of the City, in all the variety of its concerns, will be exhibited. As far as I have been enabled to comprehend them, I now lay them before you.

The state of the Financial concerns of the City is perhaps the most interesting. It would be gratifying to state that they were flourishing, but such as they are it is my duty to exhibit them to the extent of my information.

The City Funded Stock Debt, as appears on the books of the Register (there being extinguished in the year 1820 $1,312.-63), amounts at this time to $384,988.14.

Due to the Bank of Baltimore,.....	$38,000.00
To the Farmers and Merchants Bank,.....	6,500.00
To the Bank of Baltimore a Note on the Loan of $5,000, authorized by a Resolution of Nov. 1820,.....	3,000.00
Due on a Note for Oil, payable 1st April, 1821,	1,812.95
Due the House of Industry,.....	1,496.00
Due the Presbyterian Church, including $123.-29 interest, being a balance of the City's part of damages assessed for Belvidere Street,.....	1,335.77
City Court (arrears due),.....	11,611.83
For the wounded men at North Point,.....	1,960.00

Debts due by the City Commissioners on the following items, viz: Due on Cove Street for cross streets, a small portion of which is within the limits of direct taxation,.....	1,203.44
Due within the limits of direct taxation,...	976.16
Due on Clopper's Spring, ...	1,546.00
On Sterrett's Spring, exclusive of the undrawn balance,.....	756.75
Pump Repairs,.....	305 80
Repairs of Paved Streets,..	99.85
Bridge over Tanner's Run.....	101.67
Lamps,.....	18.00

Total amount of City funded Stock Debt, note debt and all other debts, as far as ascertained, four hundred and fifty-five thousand, seven hundred and twelve dollars and thirty cents. If, in addition to the amount of the foregoing debt, the ordinary expenditures of the City for the ensuing year, which must be provided for, are taken into view, and the interest on the stock and note debt amounting to twenty-five thousand, four hundred and seventy-five dollars and forty-three cents, the aggregate will exhibit the gross pecuniary burthens of the City. Heavy as they are, it has been thought proper to bring them into the view of the Council, that measures may be adopted to diminish, and in some limited time to extinguish them.

In connection with the City Funded Stock Debt may be considered the Sinking Fund. The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, held of City funded stock (upon which interest is demandable) as appears by the registry of stock to the amount of thirty-two thousand, four hundred and eighty-seven dollars and seventeen cents, as the City stock is above par, and is likely to continue so, and beneficial operations can be carried on by the Commissioners only when stock is below par, it is submitted to the Council whether it would not be to the interest of the City either to cancel the amount of stock held in the name of the Commissioners, or to sell it, and with the proceeds of sales pay so much of the note due to the office of discount and deposit, and thereby extinguish so much of the

City Stock as is held as a collateral security by the office. By the first operation, so much of the City Funded Stock is cancelled; by the latter, a large portion of the debt due the office of discount, and of the stock held as collateral security, will be extinguished. Besides the difference Bank and common interest and perhaps an advance upon the sale of the stock may be gained.

The propriety of repealing the Ordinance relating to the Sinking Funk, is submitted to the Council, as six thousand dollars are appropriated, to be paid annually to the Commissioners, without any prospects of any beneficial results; it is also submitted, whether unexpended annual balances may not advantageously be applied to the extinguishment of the debt

It may be remarked that twelve thousand dollars were paid over to the Commissioners, that is six thousand dollars of the appropriation of 1819 and six thousand dollars of that of 1820, on the 27th day of October last. It would appear that under the present embarrassments of the City, the sentiments of our fellow-citizens are favorable to economy, and of course to retrenchment in expenditures and reduction of salaries. In conformity therewith, if appropriations were made only in cases where the public convenience or necessity required, a considerable amount might thus be saved, to be applied to the lessening of the debt. Again, should the members of the City Council agree to serve without compensation or reduce their per diem, and in either event of a reduction of ten per cent. be made on the salaries of the several officers of the Corporation, including that of the Mayor, a further sum would arise therefrom, applicable also to the debt. Again, the perquisites received by certain licensed officers are so considerable in some of the departments as to admit at least of one additional officer in each, and thus afford a subsistance to several of our fellow-citizens as well as aid the City funds by the additional licenses, and the public perhaps be benefited. In some instances, too, the sum paid for licenses might be increased. These latter remarks may be applicable to Superinteudants of Sweeps, Flour Inspectors and Gaugers of Spirituous Liqours. An additional

Harbor Master in the Western District might perhaps discharge the duties more satisfactorily to the public than a Deputy.

It is for the consideration of the Council, whether the number of Superintendants of Streets and Pumps may not, consistent with the public convenience, be reduced to three, connected with the subject of extinguishing the City debt.

I have to state that a communication (marked A) was addressed to me by Gen. S. Smith, dated in November, inclosing two letters from the General to the Secretary of War (marked B and C) on the subject of the Military Claim of the City against the General Government. In November, an answer (marked D) to a letter addressed from this office to the Secretary of War, was received from the third Accountant of the War Department. This answer not being satisfactory, I judged it proper to go to Washington. Our worthy Senator, Mr. Pinkney, and worthy Representative, General Smith, promptly and in the most friendly and active manner interposed their kind offices with the President and the proper heads of Departments. With their aid the rigid rules of the War Office were in the case of the City Claims relaxed, and the Secretary of War was so favorable as to state that in revising the Claim he would take the recollection of General Smith, the Commanding General, as a voucher, and in all cases where the recollection or knowledge of the General did not extend, the most liberal rule should be applied. This broad and liberal rule being adopted in the case of the City, it may confidently be expected that a considerable portion of the sum claimed by the City will be received.

The Abstract (marked E) shews a statement of the claim by the Accountant to the amount of thirty-three thousand, one hundred and twenty-two dollars; also the amount suspended, that is eleven thousand, six hundred and fifty three dollars and sixty nine cents, which is deducted from the thirty-three thousand, one hundred and twenty-two dollars claimed, leaving the sum of twenty two thousand, five hundred and fifty dollars and fifty cents; with respect to which latter sum,

there will be no difficulty in obtaining it, and a large portion of the eleven thousand, six hundred and fifty-three dollars and sixty-nine cents suspended can be supplied under the liberal rules laid down by the Secretary.

The Vouchers for the balance of the Claim had been withdrawn by the City Agent, Mr. Gill, being considered inadmissable altogether under the rigid rules of the War Office which had been applied to them. They were deposited in this office by Mr. Gill, to whom, on my return, I applied to make an abstract, of them. His engagements interfering to prevent him, they have been put into the hands of Colonel Harris for this purpose, and the abstract will in a short time be completed. It will amount to upwards of thirty-two thousand dollars in addition to the claim of thirty-three thousand, one hundred and twenty-two dollars above detailed. Items in this additional claim to a large amount, it is also confidently expected, will be admitted under the liberal rules of the Secretary of War.

When the Claim was first exhibited to the General Government, an advance of fifteen thousand dollars was mace which will necessarily be deducted from the whole amount which will be admitted by the Government upon the final adjustment.

Some measures, as to the application of the monies which will be received on this claim may be necessary, as well as to provide for the successful and prompt prosecution of it in the interim. The former measures may be indispensable in the event of the Ordinance relating to the Sinking Fund being repealed.

The Abstract of the Claim of thirty-two thousand dollars will furnish a facility in obtaining the substitutes for vouchers and in other respects will be useful.

The sum of two thousand dollars was appropriated at the last session of the Council to defray the expenses of the Commissioners appointed by Act of Assembly for the extension of streets, lanes and alleys, and the amount paid by the Register on account (marked F) of the manner of the expenditure is here-

with transmitted. No plats have been returned to this office. The Council will decide whether any further appropriations shall be made until the Commissioners shall have returned plats and laid before the Council regular accounts in due form and signed by the Commissioners.

A Memorial (marked H) has been left at this office, with a request that it should be laid before the Council for their signatures. It prays for a repeal or modification of the law which appoints and gives the powers to the above-mentioned Commissioners.

With a view further to save the City funds it is submitted to the Council, whether the salary allowed to the City Counsel ought not to be suspended or discontinued. In ordinary cases the legal fees may be considered an adequate compensation, and in extraordinary cases an additional fee might be agreed upon, which mode would perhaps be more advantageous to the City than a fixed salary. The salaries already received, together with an additional fee of $500 heretofore paid in City stock, may perhaps be considered a liberal compensation for services already rendered, and also for closing the cases now pending upon the docket. By paying salaries their amount in time may exceed the sums in litigation. I am myself an advocate for liberality, not profusion. Should these retrenchments and reductions above detailed be adopted, a large amount growing out of them may be applied to the extinguishment of the debt.

In connection also with the Finances of the City it may be proper to suggest whether a change in the mode of collecting the City Taxes would not be beneficial in its effects: that is, to have the City divided into three or more collection districts, and a Collector appointed for each district, under proper detailed provisions and regulations. This mode has been adopted in several of the Counties with the best results, and experience has proved that the collections are better secured and more expeditiously closed and completed than where there is but one Collector. It is very probable that if this change should be adopted, the whole of the City collec-

tions may be closed within the year, which would furnish great facilities in carrying on the fiscal concerns of the City, and besides be less subject to losses by insolvencies.

Whilst on the subject of the City Taxes, it may be proper to state to the Council that a precise exhibit of balances will be laid before them by the Collector, up to the present time.

The propriety of passing an Ordinance prohibiting any officer of the Corporation from being concerned in any contract, or having any agency in or deriving any benefit or profit or advantage from any contract or undertaking entered into with the Corporation or any departments thereof, and more particularly with a department of which he is an officer, is submitted to the Council in order to prevent the irregularity of passing upon or influencing the passing of his own accounts.

The Spring on the east and that on the west of the Falls are nearly completed, except the paving.

A detailed account of the work and expenditures already done and incurred, and the work to be done and expenses still to be incurred, will be reported to you by the City Commissioners.

There was an appropriation made during the last session of the Council for paving cross streets within the limits of direct taxation. Applications have been made and granted for paving streets without the limits, but there is no existing provision by Ordinance as to the cross streets without the limits. The subject is laid before the Council for their consideration, whether any and what regulations are necessary to be adopted, as well in this case as in removing nuisances, repairing paved streets, &c., without the limits of direct taxation.

I now approach a subject of the greatest importance to the City, and no less so to every County in the State. It is the preservation of the Navigation of the Basin and Harbor. The deposits and washings from the west side of Hampstead Hill, from the North side of Whetstone Point on Federal Hill, and from the sewers which empty into the Basin are immense.

Three mud machines have been at work in the Basin for a series of years steadily, yet it is a fact that within a few weeks past a Brig going out grounded twice. To prevent the deposits and washings from the hills, great labour and a very great expense must be incurred. An estimate thereof will be laid before you in the report of the City Commissioners acting as Port Wardens, who have been requested to prepare it. A large portion of the proceeds of auction duties have heretofore been applied faithfully to this highly interesting object, but the receipts from this source are yearly diminished, and the filling up of the Basin and Harbour most rapidly increasing. As an evidence of the latter, a dock wherein the ship General Green lay, during the late war, in upwards of nine feet water, is at this moment entirely filled up from the deposits and washings from Hampstead Hill. If the washings and deposits of sand and mud are not guarded against and prevented, in a few years the Navigation of the Basin and Harbour must be materially affected. There are now three mud machines and one discharging machine, which are found not sufficient to preserve the channel, the docks and approach to the docks. One more mud machine and at least one more discharging machine may be necessary to be built, in order to work with better effect.

The expense and necessity of these additional machines will be detailed in the report of the Commissioners as Port Wardens. It may be here remarked that the lowest expense per week of the present machines exceeds $500.

Certain proceedings by Commissioners relative to East Street have been returned to the Collector, under an Ordinance of the Council. Doubts of their validity, owing to an alleged defect in the powers of the Council on this subject, are entertained, and also whether the provisions of the Ordinance can be enforced. It is for the Council to determine upon the necessity of applying to the Legislature to confirm them or pass any other Legislative Act on the subject.

As to the buoys directed to be built across Jones' Falls, at Gay Street, and to connect George and Water Streets, the

Council are referred to the report of the City Commissioners.

In a variety of instances where persons refuse or neglect to comply with the requisitions of the Officers of the Corporation in the execution of powers under the Ordinances, monies are advanced by the City to be collected from the persons assessed by suit. This causes delay, and frequently considerable loss. A speedy remedy in such cases, perhaps, might be proper. It is for the Council to decide.

The Night Watch consists of three divisions: one at the Point, one in Belvidere Street, and the third in Paca Street. The latter has, by Ordinance, only two Lieutenants attached to it; the second has two Captains and four Lieutenants; and that at the Point, two Captains and two Lieutenants. It might perhaps be proper to authorize the appointment of two Captains and two Lieutenants for the Paca Street Watch, as their duties are performed over a large extent. Rules for the regulation of the Watch have been prepared and issued from this office.

There is great difficulty in executing the Ordinances against the offence of huckstering, owing to this difficulty, the practice is carried on to a great extent, and the ordinance which was to remedy the evil, by compelling the accused to prove his innocence, has been considered so repugnant to our Laws and Constitution, that the civil authorities will not enforce it. Besides the evasions of the Ordinance are nuisances. It is submitted to the Council, either to adopt provisions which will be enforced, so as to destroy the practice altogether, or to pass regulations more rigid and limited in their application, only to those who follow huckstering.

The Almshouse expenses are very burthensome to the City, and will necessarily continue so, until the establishment and its expenditures shall be put under the management and control of the City Corporation. At present, they have no control over either, or any check upon the expenditures.

These remarks are not made as applicable to a want of economy in the Board of Visitors, but growing necessarily out of the construction of the system.

There is no provision by Ordinance, directing the manner or upon what voucher or order the monies appropriated to the Almshouse shall be paid. Perhaps it may be proper to supply this defect by Ordinance.

The expenses of the City Court are a heavy item in the expenditures of the City. The Court of Oyer and Terminer was considerably less burthensome. The salaries of the two associates being so large and paid out of the City treasury, adds to the expense. Under the system of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, the Judges adjusted the accounts once in every year, and when adjusted, and the precise amount ascertained, it was laid before the Levy-Court, and was by them inducted in the common levy, to be collected and paid the ensuing year, and this is the mode which still obtains in the Criminal side of the County Court in relation to its expenses. The system practiced by the Corporation is different in regard to the expenses of the City Court. Without being ascertained as to the precise amount, so many cents in the hundred dollars are assessed by the Council even before any expense has been incurred. The difference in the modes, is, that all the expense in the one instance has been incurred, and the precise amount ascertained; in the other, none have been incurred or ascertained. The consequence too, of the latter, also is, that so much has been assessed the present and previous years, that a considerable ratio less on the hundred dollars will be required for the ensuing year. It is to the City Council to adhere to the present mode or adopt a different one.

The attention of the Council is directed to a subject shocking to humanity. It is that of goals or dens fitted up in the City, for confining slaves of both sexes in irons, until sufficient numbers are collected, to be exported. An Ordinance constituting them nuisances and punishable with a heavy penalty, might have a tendency to suppress them.

In conformity with the resolution, No. 57, passed 11th of March, 1820, notes were addressed to the Presidents and Directors of the Baltimore Exchange Company, and to the Maryland Insurance Company, on the subject of suitable accommo-

dations for the City Authorities in their buildings, and the answers (marked L and M) have been received, and are now laid before you. One of the City Commissioners is requested to report to the Council an estimate of the expense of erecting suitable accommodations on the City lot in Holliday Street.

A correct Chart of the Basin and Harbour of Baltimore executed about three years since, and the outlines of a Chart began under the Resolution of the Council, No. 55 of the 9th of March, have been presented to the Council by Captain Brantz. The latter work was designed to have been completed by him during this winter, but his unavoidable absence from the City has prevented it.

In compliance with the Resolution No. 53, the Mayor and City Commissioners have endeavored to ascertain from what Spring, or if from the City Spring, water can be conveyed to Market Space, and at what expense. They were unanimously of the opinion that it could not be conveyed from the City Spring without incurring a very heavy expense, besides running a great risk of injury to the City Spring. How the Resolution is further executed, the Council are referred to the joint report of the Mayor and City Commissioners. The paper (marked N) contains the terms of the President and Directors of the Water Company as to a fountain in the rear of the buildings near the Canal.

The attention of the Council is directed to the Ordinance relating to the House of Industry, which provides for the appointment of two Trustees from each ward, by the Mayor and the two Presidents of the Council. No provision is made for filling up vacancies. From constant experience it is ascertained that a Board of twenty-four is too numerous; the attendance of a majority is rarely or ever to be obtained. The appointment of one from each ward, five or three of whom to constitute a quorum to transact business, and a power vested to fill up vacancies, would remedy the inconvenience now and heretofore experienced, and would tend perhaps to give efficiency to the Institution.

The Ordinance relating to the Hydrants can seldom be executed, as there is great difficulty in proving who committed the violation. Perhaps if the Ordinance was amended so as to make the occupier of the house or yard alone liable for the penalty, the evil might be more extensively remedied.

Herewith is transmitted a letter (marked O) from one of the City Delegates, on several subjects relating to the City of Baltimore, for your information; also a letter (marked P) from a Delegate from Washington County, on the subject of making the Western Turnpike Road to Cumberland a free road, and desiring to be informed what aid can be derived from the City of Baltimore.

An application has been made by the proprietors of lots on Light Street Wharf to the Legislature. Their first objects, there is reason to believe, are narrowed down to the single one of obtaining a preference at the wharf. Should this measure succeed, all the proprietors of lots on the wharves will apply for the same right, and great confusion at the several wharves must ensue. The Council can adopt such proceedings on these subjects now before the Legislature as the interests of the City may require. The paper (marked R) contains the Bill.

The Auction Duty Bill is again reported in the House of Delegates.

The Corporation are in possession of real property of very considerable value; it is for the Council to decide whether all or any portion of it might not be advantageously disposed of and the proceeds applied to cancelling so much of the City debt, or to any other object which the Council may direct.

The summary reported by the Register, will exhibit the receipts and expenditures of the Corporation during the year eighteen hundred and twenty, by which it appears that there is a balance in the treasury of $6,114.46, subject to appropriation, and discharge of the present quarter's interest on the stock debt, due the first day of January, in the year eighteen hundred and twenty one. Accompanying this, are the reports of the City Commissioners, the Board of Health, and the con-

sulting Physician, to which the Council are referred for more detailed information on the several subjects embraced in them respectively; also, the report of the acting Commissioners of the sinking fund, (marked S.)

Messrs. Purviance, Williams, and Woodyear, have been requested to report through this office to the Council, the state of the suits of the Corporation, under their directions respectively.

When the amount of the auction duties shall be ascertained, for the last quarter ending in January, it will be transmitted to the Council. There is reason to apprehend that where thousands of dollars have been calculated upon, scarce hundreds will be received, so considerably have they been diminished.

The exhibit of the Collector will shew the balances due the City in the Collector's office, which, when collected, will go into the City treasury.

The summary of the Register shews the amount paid by the Collector on the respective items, which, being deducted from the whole amount of receipts in the treasury, the balance will principally exhibit the amount of revenue derived from the ordinary sources, exclusive of taxes in the present year.

The two dollars' tax on the assessable property in the City, or direct tax for 1820 amounts to $85,720.32.

The 45 cents on every $100, or poor tax.....	$21,645.19
The 40 " " " or Court-house tax...	19,240.17
Specific tax.....	2,000,00
Pump tax.....	1,195.78
Paving tax.....	13,593.39
Totals,	$143,394.85

The amount which the summary exhibits as paid by the Collector on each specified tax, deducted from the whole amount of such tax, will shew the sum due by the Collector on that tax, that is, the sum not collected and paid in. These several balances, added together, will show the whole amount of taxes not collected, or not paid into the treasury, and due

the city. Should any subject of information be omitted, it will be promptly supplied when called for by the Council.

It will afford me pleasure to co-operate with the Council in all measures which will secure good order, advance the interests, and promote the general welfare of the City.

JOHN MONTGOMERY.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, January 7, 1822.

To the First and Second Branch
of the City Council:

Gentlemen:—In obedience to the directions of the Charter I have the honor to report the general state of the City, with an account of the monies received and expended. In taking a general view of the state of the City and connecting with it the amount of the City debt, no other than the ordinary expenditures of the City are deemed necessary to be recommended. Any surplus revenue at the present rate of taxes, may therefore be applied to the discharge of so much of the City debt, or a reduction of the rate of taxes may be made, as the Council may consider most expedient and beneficial to the City. The monies received and expended during the past year will appear by the summary of the Register, in a detailed form, to which the Council are respectfully referred, which will also exhibit a balance in the treasury on the first day of January, 1822, of $4,159.47. The aggregate of the stock and note debts amount, to wit:

Six per cent stock,.....	$323,949.14
Five " "	53,895.00
Note Debt,.....	49,000.00
Amount of Stock and Note debt,.....	426,844.14

Included in the note debt are the sums borrowed in anticipation of the revenue under the authority of certain Resolutions passed at the extra session of November 1820, and the annual session of 1821. The appropriation made at the late extra session for Gay Street Bridge, the new Mud Machine, Lexington Market, &c., to meet which no means were pro-

vided, rendered it necessary to use the above authority to borrow to a larger amount than otherwise would have been used.

Included in the five per cent stock debt is the sum of $32,595.00 held by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, being the amount of the City stock debt redeemed with the funds of the City and interest paid by the City, and on which, notwithstanding the City will have annually to pay interest until the City debt shall be wholly extinguished; cancelling this amount thus held by the Sinking Fund Commissioners and any future amounts of stock which they may redeem after the manner practised by the General Government, is submitted to the consideration of the Council.

The Ordinance converting the six per cent. stock into the five per cent. relieves the City of only one per cent. of the interest on the amount held by the Sinking Fund Commissioners; by cancelling the whole amount the City will be relieved of the burthen of the whole interest. I feel the more confident in recommending the adoption of this measure as the mode directed to be pursued in this instance by the existing Ordinances was practised by the General Government until the year 1816, when the impolicy of it was detected by the then judicious Committee of Ways and Means, and the system exploded and the present adopted, from which most beneficial effects have resulted.

The Commissioners named in the Ordidance for converting the six per cent. stock into a stock bearing an interest of five per cent. have negotiated a part of the loan authorized to the amount of the five per cent. stock stated above as forming a part of the City stock and note debt, excluding that which is held by the Sinking Fund Commissioners, perhaps at no distant period during the current year a favorable change in the state of the money market may justify reasonable expectations that the object contemplated by the Ordinance will be fully effected. The Commissioners at an early day will make a detailed report of their proceedings to the Council, as required by the Ordinance.

There is no provision in the existing Ordinances of the City prescribing the manner of completing the collections of the City Taxes in the event of the death of the Collector. Mr. Rogers, the City Collector for the years 1818, 1819 and 1820, not having closed the collections of the taxes for those years before his death, it may be proper to pass an Ordinance providing for the case. The provision contained in the Act of Assembly of 1812, relating to the County assessment, is submitted to the consideration of the Council. The provision to be applied to the case submitted, might be made to embrace all future cases of the like kind.

Permit me respectfully to urge the expediency and benefit of having more than one Collector annually appointed to collect the City taxes. They have become too heavy to be collected in the same year they are levied, and in the event of the death of the Collector under the present system at any period of the year, and particularly the early part of it, much inconvenience, delay and embarrassment must necessarily result. If more than one Collector shall be authorized to be appointed, there will be greater certainty of completing the collections within the year which would furnish great acili ties to the Treasury; the City taxes would be better secured, and, in the event of the death of one of the Collectors, the inconvenience and embarrassment to the Treasury would be limited.

The City Court expenses are very burthensome. The salaries of the Associate Judges now paid by the City amount to $3,000.00, a sum far exceeding that received by the three Judges of Oyer and Terminer. The Goal expenses are very large. An application to the Legislature in these instances would tend considerably to lessen the expenses incurred in this Court.

The Alms House expenses are increasing annually. Under the present Vagrant Law, the Alms House is burthened with the maintainance of vagrants, and there is no prospect of its being relieved from it. A work-house connected with this establishment might not only maintain itself under proper

regulations, but it might be so managed as to contribute something towards the support of the Alms House, by the labor of those who are able but unwilling to work, and the number of persons of this description be diminished in tho City. To effect this object an application to the Legislature would be necessary.

During the prevalence of the Yellow Fever last season, the Commissioners of Health had a very arduous, dangerous and important duty to perform. They entered upon it with zeal, alacrity and firmness. By the free use of clay and lime applied to cellars and low surfaces, and removing nuisances, the disease was, under a kind Providence, extirpated in Commerce Street, Smith's and Spear's Wharves, Patterson Street, Frederick Street and Market Space. When it appeared at Fell's Point, the great number of wooden buildings combined with the extent of ground which formerly was marshy baffled the efforts of the Commisioners, and they were obliged to resort to the expedient of removing those who were not in circumstances to remove themselves. Houses and rooms were rented in healthy parts of the City, and provisions and fuel furnished them. By adopting this mode, no impositions were practiced on the Commissioners, and they were enabled with tho Health Fund together with donations from the benevolent citizens, of vegetables, meat, flour, and $1,384.25 in money, to subsist seven hundred and seventy souls until the fever ceased. The economy used by the Commissioners is evidenced by the following statement of appropriations and expenditures of the two funds subject to their drafts:

Health Department Appropriation,.....		$4,000.00
Drawn by the Commissioners,.....		3,278.14
	Undrawn,	721.86
Nuisance Appropriation,.....	$5.000.00	
	Drawn, 2,052.81	2,947.19
	Undrawn,	3,669.05

Besides, the money donations from the citizens has been so carefully managed by the Commissioners that as much was

reserved by them as to enable them to purchase one hundred cords of wood to be distributed during the inclemency of the winter among the necessitous of Fell's Point, for whose benefit the collections were originally made, and also to pay for hauling.

As connected with the duties of the Health Commissioners, the attention of the Council is respectfully called to some of the provisions of the Bill passed at the late extra session which has become a law without the signature of the Mayor. The first section directs that cellars shall be filled so as to be made as dry as possible. From the looseness of this expression the provision will be very difficult to be enforced, besides it weakens the provisions of a former Ordinance authorizing the Commission to direct cellars to be filled up. Again, it is doubted whether the provision relating to the offals and deposits from the Goal and Penitentiary can be enforced, the title to same being conveyed to corporate bodies, who may be considered as not subject to penalties imposed upon persons; and again the execution of the Ordinance in other cases of offals and deposits into Jones' Falls will be attended with injury, expense and inconvenience to the citizens residing on the Falls and streams emptying therein; besides, as no case of the Yellow Fever has occurred bordering on the Falls, or the Falls ever considered the exciting cause of Yellow Fever, the expediency of the provisions may be fairly doubted. A modification of this Ordinance, so as to retain such parts as can be enforced and to render other parts less burthensome, and adding a provision giving a discretion to the Commissioners of Health to direct what cellars and low surfaces on made ground shall be filled up and paved, might render the Ordinance less difficult to be executed and be a means of checking or removing the local cause of malignant disease. And to obtain more effectually these very desirable objects, a discretionary power might be given to the Commissions in the cases of wooden-houses on low surfaces, sunk in the earth, to direct what shall be necessary to render them not injurious to the health of the City. The ventilation required

in the first and second sections of the Ordinance, as applied to houses of this description, it is doubted cannot be effected in the manner prescribed, and if effected may be more prejudicial than otherwise. There is no appropriation in the Ordinance either for erecting the buildings mentioned in the sixth section on the public wharves and near Market Space, or the purchase of grounds for the purposes thereof.

The City Commissioners have with fidelity, skill, economy and industry executed a number of valuable and necessary improvements in the City; and many for sums less than the appropriation, and perhaps in one or two instances exceeding the appropriation a small sum. As these improvements have been carried on by expenditures other than the ordinary expenditures of the City, it may be considered proper to detail each specific work and its respective expense, for the information of the Council and the citizens, as embraced within the express meaning of the Charter directing a report for money expended.

The Appropriation for Gay Street Bridge,....		$16.000.00
Drawn, ...	$14,230.48	
Undrawn,	1,769.52	
Debt,.....	.....508.45	
		16,508.45

This debt was necessarily incurred to cover the mason work with a coat of sand to protect it against frost, and also to render the bridge conveniently passable. It is estimated that a further appropriation of $2,500.00 will be necessary to finish the bridge and discharging the above debt; and the remark may be here made, that in point of materials, workmanship and strength, this bridge is surpassed by none of the kind in the Union, of equal span.

The appropriation for Water Street Bridge.....	$7,000.00
Cost.....	6,691.78

No further appropriation is required for this bridge, it being finished. The remark made respecting Gay Street Bridge, is applicable to this also. The amount drawn and to pay on Water Street Bridge over and above $5,650, the amount of the

contract for building the same, was expended in pileing and logging the Falls; filling and repairing adjacent streets and making sewers, which was indispensable, in order to render the bridge accessable by carriages of burthen.

The appropriation for walling Bath, Madison, and Holliday Streets, including the necessary moving, and in a great measure rebuilding Bath Street Bridge, ...		$ 5,500.00
	Drawn 2,825.85	
	Undrawn 1,212.09	4,037.94
Unexpended Balance,.....		$ 1,462.06
The appropriation for bringing wholesome water to Market Space.....		3,000.00
Cost.....		3,000.00
The appropriation for Cloppers Spring.....		3,000.00
Sale of materials.....		500.00
		$ 3,500.00
	Drawn 3,289.72	
	Undrawn 210.28	3,500.00
Appropriation for Sterretts Spring.....		4,600 00
Cost.....		5,631.97
Debt of 1820.....2,333.30		
Of this paid in 1821.....1,728.03		605.27
Unexpended balance of 1820.....		326.57
Debt of 1820.....		278.70
Amount of work done in 1821.....3,048.65		
Of this paid in 1821.....2,239.84		
Debt of 1821.....	808.81	
Undrawn.....	632·13	176.68
Debt of 1820 and 1821		455.38
Estimate to finish this work,.....		250.00
		705.38
The appropriation for the tunnel at the intersection of Holliday and St. Paul Streets.....		500 00
Cost,.....		468.18

Amount paid by the Harbor Master under the Ordinance providing for the repairs of the wharf known by the name of Dugan's Wharf, up to first of January, 1822,..... 772.62

The Port Wardens have commenced repairing the wharf from the lower end with stone, and the expense is engaged to be weekly defrayed by Mr. Dugan, to a certain amount in his hands, heretofore received for wharfage. When this wharf shall have been completed, it will much improve and benefit that part of the City, and be promotive of health and convenience.

Appropriation for deepening Jones' Falls.....	$2,000.00
Drawn 1,289.81	
Unexpended 710,19	2,000,00
Appropriations for improving the Cove.....	1,000.00
Drawn 296.63	
Unexpended 703.37	1,000.00

The above detailed improvements, as they furnish proof of the faithful conduct of the Commissioners, so the money expended affords ample reason why the treasury has not been enabled to re-imburse any portion of the monies heretofore borrowed, in anticipation of the revenues, and also why the loans have been executed to nearly the extent authorized; and it may also be remarked that had it have been practicable for the Collectors to have completed their collections within the year, no outstanding debts contracted by the Commissioners, would, at this time, have existed: as it is, they are not considable either in number or amount.

During the past season, a channel has been opened in the basin by the mud machines, from the south-west part of Fells Point to the saw mill, of the depth of nine feet, and of the width of two hundred feet; with the aid of the new mud discharging machine, the navigation of the Basin can be very considerably improved during the ensuing season, and at considerably less expense. It may be remarked that the auction duties applicable to this object have considerably diminished during the past year, and it is expected, will continue to decrease during the current year.

It appears from proposals received by the City Commissioners, for erecting the Fish Houses under the late Ordinances, that the cost will exceed the sum appropriated, upwards of $2,000. I am decidedly friendly to the principal of the Ordinance, but being of opinion that the appropriation was too large, and the plan too extensive at the present time, therefore the Ordinance was passed without my signature, and more particularly as it is but an experiment, which, through the interference of the Legislature, after the expense should have been incurred, or from other causes may have failed, and so large an amount as the appropriation be added to the City debt without any benefit to be derived from it. It is respectfully submitted to the Council whether the Ordinance may not be so modified, as that a Fish House upon a much less expensive plan, and of cheaper materials could not for the present, be so constructed as to answer every valuable purpose, and by the proceeds, in case the experiment succeeds, construct a permanent Fish House without resorting to borrow money to erect it.

No authority appears to be vested in any part of the Corporation to allow abatements on the City tax-list. By the act of Assembly of 1812, the Commissioners appointed by the Governor and Council for the City, are authorized to allow abatements, with a view to the county tax, which is imposed jointly on the City and County, and by the Ordinance of March, 1815, the Mayor is empowered to make transfers, and allow for insolvencies on the City tax-list; as cases exist wherein abatements ought to be allowed, in relation to the City taxes, the subject is submitted to the Council, that in case the view taken may be found correct, a provision for the case may be made.

There is serious difficulty in executing the Ordinances to prevent nuisances arising from ice made on the pavements from hydrant water. Perhaps a modification of this Ordinance so as to impose a penalty on the owner or occupier of the premises, for not removing the ice thus formed, on reasonable notice, and in case of neglect, authorizing the superintendant of streets to remove it at the expense of the owner or occupier, would more effectually tend to do away this dangerous evil.

On examining the late census, it will be noticed that the equality in the number of the inhabitants in each ward is not preserved as accurately as the Act of Assembly contemplated; and that, in fact, some of the wards as now existing, are very disproportionate in population to others. This subject is respectfully submitted to the consideration of the Council.

The expediency of an additional assessment is suggested, and also the extension of the time for delivering the bills by the Collectors.

It may be proper to call the attention of the Council to the improvement of the Falls at Centre Street, with a view to prevent the destruction by freshets, which has been heretofore experienced, by making a provision to straighten the Falls at this point, agreeably to the plat returned by the Port Wardens.

The Trustees of the House of Industry have endeavored to rent a house in which to commence their operations, but have not been successful. A proposition is now pending before them to erect a house and means pursuing to ascertain the expense. There is still reason to be of opinion that the number constituting the Board is too large with a view to active operations.

Accompanying this are the reports of the Board of Physicians, showing the progress made under the late Ordinance in vaccinating throughout the City.

It has pleased the Almighty to visit the City with sore and severe scourges, but we have reason to be thankful that His judgments have been tempered with mercy.

Agreeably to the Ordinance, a note was addressed from this office to the President and Directors of the several Turnpike Companies, and answers have been received from two of the Presidents, containing a condition of session not recognized by the Ordinance. They are referred to the Council.

As the salaries of the Mayor and Register are to be acted on by the Council, during the present session, a review of the salaries of certain officers whose salaries depend upon per centum receipts is submitted to the Council. The salaries fixed for the City Bailiffs are small in proportion to the

number. It would have a tendency to promote the police of the City, either to increase the salaries of the present number or to diminish the number so as to give a more adequate compensation to those who may be continued, as the Council shall deem most expedient. The Rule of the Bill of Rights of the State that salaries ought to be liberal but not profuse, may be adopted in regulating the salaries of the Mayor and Register, and what will be liberal under the existing circumstances of the City is referred to the Council.

JOHN MONTGOMERY, MAYOR.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, January 6, 1823.

Gentlemen of the First and
Second Branches of the City Council:

It is at all times right to exact a rigid economy as to the disbursement of the public money, though improvement should not be neglected nor the public safety or convenience be disregarded, and it frequently so happens that it is true economy to disburse freely on objects carefully and judiciously selected. But the present state of society in the United States and the particular condition of this City will not admit of any expenditure at this moment that the immediate welfare of its inhabitants does not imperiously demand. The stagnation of our commerce, to which so many of our citizens were variously attached, and by which so many were directly or indirectly employed, has caused a severe reduction in the productive value of property; and many who formerly esteemed themselves rich are now really distressed to pay the taxes on property held by them, and should the present state of things continue it will become indispensable for us to reduce the amount of contributions now levied on the City for the support of its Government. It appears to me at this time the better course to pay the interest on the debt of the City than to attempt its reduction by adding to the burthens of the people; and whatever may be the difference on this point, I trust we all unite in a fixed and determined resolution not to increase the amount of our debts, already so onerous and eating up by the interest payable on them so large a proportion of our resources. By the documents which I have considered it my duty to lay before you, it will evidently appear that the debts of the City have increased, or, which is the same thing, its re-

sources have diminished seventy-four thousand dollars inde pendent of the Susquehannah appropriation of fifty thousand dollars since I last had the honor of addressing the City Council. The improvements made have been extensive, and were perhaps useful and proper; but I recommend it to your most serious consideration, whether we are in a situation to attempt anything new. Whether, harassed as we are in our means, we can think of accomplishing anything that is not directly required by the public safety or imperiously called for by public inconvenience. If, by a wise and prudent scheme of economy and retrenchment for a few years, we can with our present resources pay a part of our debt and thereby reduce the amount of interest payable, and a change of times for the better should occur, we shall then be enabled, as shall seem most expedient, either to reduce the taxes or go on to improve or embellish the City; but until the present debt be somewhat reduced, I hope and trust that every Ordinance involving an expenditure of money will be rigidly examined and its immediate necessity correctly ascertained. The appalling anticipa tions presenting themselves to my mind are greatly increased by your Collector's returns for the present year, from which it appears that, with similar exertions and greatly increased facilities, the amount returned by him for the present will fall short of the sum returned for the last year five thousand and seventy-nine dollars, which can be justly ascribed to no other cause than an increased inability on the part of our citizens to meet the demands upon them.

To all general rules there must be exceptions, and the preservation of the health of the City must be attended to and preserved, if within the power of any resources under our control; for without that great blessing all our improvements cannot be enjoyed or made serviceable to us. The health of the City is of primary concern to each and all of us, as the business of all is affected by the prevalence of disease—as, to the loss of many valuable lives, we have to add the loss of our accustomed trade and other resources of industry. This highly important object I most earnestly recommend to your

consideration, pledging myself to go with you in all measures that may be adopted, to prevent a return of the disease with which several parts of our City have been of late years so much afflicted.

The preservation and improvement of our Navigation and Harbour are of equal importance to our future welfare and prosperity, and it is a lamentable truth that some of our own acts have contributed to the injuries it has sustained. To the want of foresight in having imprudently collected into Ann Street, in the first ward. all the waters of the surrounding hills, thereby producing a torrent sweeping by its impetuosity thousands of loads of sand and gravel into the boldest and deepest and consequently most valuable part of our Harbor, may justly be attributed the effects of which so many of our fellow-citizens so justly complain. And although I entertain serious doubts of the practicability or efficacy of the Ordinance of your last session, yet it is an evil for which a remedy ought immediately to be provided; for until the waters at present producing such mischief are divided and dispersed, or made to flow in different channels, the total and entire destruction of a part of our Harbour must inevitably ensue. I have caused the adjacent streets to be platted and graded, and present them to your consideration, hoping thereby to communicate information to enable you to devise some plan to arrest this evil, to which I am anxious to draw your particular attention.

By a report from the City Commissioners herewith presented to you, it appears that of the appropriations authorized by the several laws of last year the sum of eighteen thousand three hundred and eighty dollars and seventy six cents has not been expended; and although loans to the amount of thirty-one thousand dollars have been effected within the year, the state of the City funds would not admit a further progress in the several works enumerated by them. Among those suspended, the sum of six thousand two hundred and eighty dollars and seventy-six cents of the Fish-House appropriation remains undrawn. To render this establishment of utility, it is requisite

that complete accommodation should be provided for the storage of all the fish brought to market, and will certainly require an additional building, otherwise much just cause of complaint will exist and will render the collection of your storage troublesome and precarious. I would recommend an alteration in your Ordinance, requiring one month's storage upon all fish, whether housed or not.

They also report a deficiency of one thousand seven hundred and twenty-one dollars and fifty-six cents for services rendered or work done. The appropriation for the respective items being insufficient to cover the necessary expenditure; viz:

Repairs of Pumps	$764.73
Gay Street Bridge	292.28
Repairs of paved streets	126.77
Repairs of unpaved streets	111.20
Paving cross streets	426.98
	1,721.96

The Trustees of the Almshouse have prepared and presented their annual report, and require the sum of six thousand, seven hundred and forty dollars more than last year to be levied and collected for the expenses of the coming year. The causes producing this requisition are fully accounted for in their communication herewith sent you, which I respectfully submit to your consideration, with the pleasing hope that their expectation of reducing the sum wanted for the institution for future years, will be realized.

By recurring to an exhibit, showing the true situation of our City on the 1st day of November, 1820, prepared by me, and presented to the City Council, for the accuracy and correctness of which I then pledged myself, it appears that at that time the debts due from the City amounted to.... $405,664.00
And the claims in favor of the City amounted to... 135,718,00
Which, provided the funds stated could have been realized, would have reduced the debt to 269,946.00

Of the debts due the City, say			135,718.00
the following sums have been realized:			
Direct tax of 1820, received in 1821,....	$16,463.27		
Direct tax of 1820, received in 1822,....	3,800.55	20,263.82	
Direct tax of 1819, received in 1821,....	4,560.40		
Direct tax of 1819, received in 1822,....	2,404.60	6,965.00	
Direct tax of 1818, received in 1821,....	628.52		
Direct tax of 1818, received in 1822.....	386.69	1,015.21	
Specific tax.....		1,011.28	
Pump tax.....		2,754.96	
War debt.....		33,273.05	
Debt from Col. T. Tenant		945.12	
Debt from B. Philpot's heirs.....		360.00	
Auction Duties.....		10,126.80	76,715.24
	Balance.....		59,002.76
Additional claims due the City which have accrued since the first of November, 1820			
Balance of direct tax for 1821.....		2,336.34	
" " " 1822.....		27,335.59	
Balance Specific tax for 1821 and 1822.		1,000,00	
Auction Duties.....		10,000.00	40,671.93
			99,674.69

Debts now due by the City:		
City Stock.....	360,484 74	
Deduct this sum held by the Commissioners of the sinking fund.....	35,483.00	325,001.74
On notes to sundry banks.....		80,000.00
City Court arrears.....		7,563.91
The managers of the Monument.....		2,859.33
Commissioners for laying off streets.....		5,500.00
Appropriations undrawn as per statement of the City Commissioners....		18,380,74
Debts due by the City Commissioners.		1,183 38
City proportion of opening Pratt Street.		3,673.05
Susquehanna appropriation.....		50,000,00
Total,.....		494,162.15
Claims in favor of the City.....		99,674.69
Balance		394,487.46

Intending to present to you an accurate account of the many difficulties and embarrassments we shall have to encounter the ensuing year, renders it necessary that I should inform you that a late decision of our County Court will affect our fiscal operations to an amount probably exceeding twenty thousand dollars; suits to that amount against individuals having been brought by the City for the use of the pavers, who, in case of failure, will have a just claim against our treasury. The City Attorney will, at his first leisure moment, report fully the particulars of this business, which, when received, shall be immediately submitted to your consideration.

Two subjects, viz: the preservation of our navigation and Harbour and the manner of assessing and collecting the City Taxes, which under our present regulations operate unequally and unjustly, shall at an early day be made the subject of a

distinct communication; want of time having prevented me from enlarging as much in detail as their own importance and the future prosperity of our City require.

As usual, the Register has prepared and will lay before you his accounts for investigation, showing on the present day of this year a balance in favor of the City of twenty-seven hundred and thirty five dollars and twenty cents.

EDWARD JOHNSON.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, January 5, 1824.

Gentlemen of the First and
Second Branches of the City Council:

An attentive perusal of the summary prepared by the Register will shew the happy effects resulting from the course of conduct pursued by the last City Council.

As the appropriations were very limited and chiefly confined to objects of indispensable necessity, the City Treasury has been enabled to extricate itself from difficulties and embarrassments occasioned by the debts and appropriations of former years to a very considerable amount, and we commence the new year with the entire resources thereof subject to your future disposal.

The universal approbation bestowed on the principles and proceedings of the last Council, renders it unnecessary for me to urge any additional arguments to induce an adherence to them, and I shall only observe that the anticipation of an increased inability on the part of our citizens to meet the demands of our Treasury upon them have been unhappily realized, the Collector's returns of direct tax for the last year falling short of similar returns for former years to a large amount, although if possible, he has redoubled his diligence, and by experience, has acquired information that certainly enabled him to make superior arrangements for the adjustment of the public dues. At the same time that I recommend a system of the most rigid economy, I will repeat my former observations on the propriety and necessity of very liberal appropriations for the improvement of the Basin and Harbour, and for the preservation of the Health of our City, and it is a pleasing and gratifying reflection that the latter object will

require a lesser sum each succeeding year, the accounts of the Board of Health shewing that altho' much has been accomplished the last year, the appropriations for the Health and Nuisance Departments have not been expended to the amount of twenty-six hundred dollars, which remains in the Treasury subject to your future purposes. Intimately connected with this object is our Fish House establishment, the regulations of which interfering with the interest and convenience of some individuals, has of course been censured, the general utility derived from the removal of the inspection of Fish from our different wharves to the Fish-house is apparent, as it is a common and very just remark that our wharves have never been so free from offensive and deleterious smells as during the past summer. Much inconvenience was experienced and considerable extra expense incurred previous to the finishing the second building, there being five thousand barrels of Fish for which we had no accommodation in the house and were obliged to erect temporary sheds to protect them from the weather. Our situation will be different the ensuing season, the second building and wharf being completed, an opportunity will be afforded to the Inspectors to pay immediate attention to the Fish as they arrive and the perfect state of preservation in which all the Fish stored with us will be delivered will amply compensate for the inconvenience arising from the remote situation. The Houses are cool and pleasant, with a free circulation of air, and are admirably calculated to answer the purpose of their erection.

The City Commissioners have repaired Pratt Street Bridge, and have expended $353.25, the public convenience and durability were consulted by them in the improvement and its merits, and has received the decided approbation of all who have taken the trouble to examine the work. The Belvidere Bridge has also been completed; the whole amount of the several appropriations have been expended, and owing to the judicious contrivances of those employed the Bridge has been raised without accident to the proper level and so effectually secured as to rendered it stronger and more substantial than at

its first erection, and will last in perfect security as long as the gradual decay of its perishable wooden materials will permit.

The appropriation for the Improvement of Jones' Falls has also been expended, and when we reflect on the heavy and distressing losses sustained by some of our fellow citizens by the freshets, should it effectually answer the purpose the sum expended though large will never be regretted.

The sums that may be required for its completion cannot be large; but there is a case of injustice to an invidual which ought to be redressed, I allude to the case of Mr. John Gross, whose property has been injured for the public benefit, which is the more severaly felt as for all other properties in his immediate neighborhood, which have been taken and used for the public convenience, remuneration has been made fully to the extent of the injury sustained.

There are two subjects which claim your attention during the present session, Bowley's Wharf and the Centre Market House. The former from its ruinous state of decay will probably give way, and unless speedily attended to a great increase of expense will take place, it has been submitted to the consideration of the City Commissioners with directions to prepare the necessary estimates for your consideration.

The annual revenue derived from the Centre Market House justifies the occupiers in expecting comfortable accommodations, the roof at present leaks and on the principle of economy demands immediate attention.

The Trustees of the Almshouse have prepared and presented their annual report, and it is with great pleasure I observe that the sum required by them to be levied and collected for the support of the poor for the coming year is several thousand dollars less than the last, for the particular details, I refer you to their communication herewith handed to you.

Frequent applications are made to the Board of City Commissioners by persons residing within the City beyond the limits of direct taxation for small expenditures of the public money, which they are obliged to refuse under their present

restricted powers and although the cases are hard ones there is no remedy but particular applications for special appropriations.

On Christmas Day several accidents and many narrow escapes occurred from the idle practice of throwing squibs in the streets of the City, the facility and cheapness with which supplies are procured, rendered the practice universal, and although the officers were active and vigilent and did disperse hundreds of assemblages, yet it was impossible to suppress it entirely, and I am sorry to observe that several severe altercations took place with the misguided parents of the children and lads concerned; the only remedy for its entire suppression is a law imposing a heavy penalty upon the sellers of squibs and crackers which I therefore recommend.

In conformity to a resolve of the Council, forty-one thousand dollars of six per cent. stock has been sold at a premium of five per cent., and the proceeds applied to the payment of the note debt to an equal amount and arrangements are made to change the balance as the notes arrive at maturity, there was also at the Office of the Discount and Deposit a note of seventeen thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine dollars, for which stock to an equal amount was held as collateral security, the stock has been transferred to individuals at a premium and the note retired. When the whole of the note debt of eighty thousand dollars shall be adjusted together with seventeen thousand seven and ninety-nine dollars, also a note debt, the annual saving of interest to the City will exceed seven hundred dollars.

The proceedings of the late Town Meeting, which was as respectable as numerous, so clearly manifested the public sentiment as to impose new duties upon us in our corporate capacity, and I recommend to you to sanction the proceeding of the meeting and direct the payment of all the necessary expenses that may be incurred by the Committee.

The very able address of the committee to the people of Baltimore has anticipated nearly every remark I had prepared on the very interesting subject of canals, and in addition thereto

I have only to recommend that the committee be instructed by you respectfully to solicit the Legislature of our State to grant authority to the executive to adopt all proper measures for ascertaining in concert with Pennsylvania, and with her if attainable the practicability and advantages, with a view to all circumstances of connecting the Ohio and Chesapeake through the Alleghany and Juniatta Rivers, and their waters by one or more canals with proper surveys and drawings and estimates, and to take such other steps as may appear to them adviseable for obtaining if possible as soon as may be the aid of Pennsylvania in this object, and also for ascertaining with the concurrence of the State of New York, and with her aid if it can be obtained the best route or routes of connecting the Susquehanna with the Seneca and Cayuga Lakes or either of them by one or more canals, together with the length, elevation and an estimate of the expense of such canals respectively.

And I recommend that you immediately take efficient steps respectfully to solicit the Legislature of our State to authorize the executive to cause surveys to be made for the purpose of ascertaining the best route with a view to all circumstances for a navigable canal of suitable dimensions from Baltimore to the Potomac, through the District of Columbia, which may serve as a continuation to our City of the canal projected for uniting the Ohio with the Chesapeake through the Valley of the Potomac, should the same be accomplished, together with proper plans and drawings of the canal on the route so to be surveyed and estimates of its expense.

As usual the Register has prepared and will lay before you his accounts for investigation, which will show a balance of one thousand six hundred and seventeen dollars and one cent in favor of the City. Yours Respectfully,

EDWARD JOHNSON.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, January 3, 1825.

Gentlemen of the First and
Second Branches of the City Council:

In performance of the duty pointed out by the Charter, I have the honor to report to you the general state of the City, so far as I have been enabled to inform myself, since entering upon the important and honorable trust lately committed to me by my fellow citizens. Should other information be obtained, which may be considered necessary to be communicated, it will be reported from time to time during your session.

The first subject presented to the Council and which may not be uninteresting to our citizens to know, is the amount of the City Debt and in what it consists. By the accompanying official documents signed by the Register, it appears that on the first Monday of November last, the commencement of the Mayorality year, the whole debt of the City amounted to $472,220.20, and consists of the following items, viz:

Five per cent stock to improve the Susquehanna	$10,000.00
In part for paving claims	8,435.46
Held by Commissioners of Sinking Fund	42,032.79
On other Items	17,332.21
Five per cent. exchanged, 1st July, 1824	301,119.74
	$378,920 20
Six per cent. stock irredeemable until 1838	80,000.00
Balance due sundry holders of Certificates of 6 per cent. stock redeemable, not called for	6,300.00
Loan at Bank of Baltimore, contracted in March	7,000.00
	$472,220.20
And that there was in the Treasury	2,420.20

It also appears by an accompanying official document, signed by the Register, that since the 1st day of November last, there has been paid on the above items of debt, viz:

Loan at the Bank of Baltimore.....	$7,000
Of the value due on account of Certificates of 6 per cent. stock redeemable not before called for	900
	$7,900

Which being deducted from the whole City Debt due as above stated on the 1st day of November last, shews the debt of the City on this day amounts to about $464,320.20, including the amount held by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, upon which interest is payable.

It is to be observed that as the whole of the 5 per cent. stock by Ordinances is irredeemable until 1832, and 6 per cent. stock until 1838, the operations of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund will be very limited, it is therefore submitted to the Council, whether it would not be proper to relieve our citizens from the payment of the interest on the $42,032.79, redeemed and held by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, by cancelling the stock on which the interest is payable. The Sinking Fund system adopted by the City is similar to that acted upon formerly by the United States. Since 1816 it has been exploded and when stock is purchased it is immediately cancelled, and the Government relieved from the payment of interest thereon. In the event of the Stock debt held by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund being cancelled, it is further submitted to the consideration of the Council, the propriety of abolishing the Board of Sinking Fund Commissioners, and constituting a Board to be composed of persons immediately connected with and responsible to the corporation, at whose disposal should be placed any funds, the Council may from time to time direct and by the Board be vested in any species of stock bearing an interest, which will be most profitable to the City. By this operation the City may be enabled to meet the

payment of so much of the interest on the City Stock Debt, and annually increasing the investments so that at the periods fixed for the redemption of the Stock Debt, the sale of the one would meet the reimbursement of the other.

By comparing the Receipts of 1823 and 1824, arising from sources of revenue other than the direct tax, it may be estimated that in 1825 there will be secured on this item.....	$66,200
From the direct tax of $2,964,435 of Assessable Property after deducting Abatements, insolvencies at 2½ per cent. calculated to produce in 1825 together with arrearages.....	64,000
Amount of ordinary receipts.....	$130,200
From which deduct the ordinary expenditures in 1825, estimated at.....	112,378
Leaves a surplus of receipts above ordinary expenditures.....	$17,822
Again the receipts in 1825 estimated as above at	66,200
From a direct tax on the aforegoing, net amount of assessable property at 2½ per cent. is calculated at	56,000
	$122,200
From which deduct the estimated amount of ordinary expenditures at above.....	112,378
Leaves a surplus of receipts beyond expenditures	$9,822

The two preceeding items are presented to the Council for the purpose of shewing that if no extraordinary expenditure be authorized by the Council, the annual receipt from the ordinary sources of revenue, and a direct tax of 2½ per cent., agreeably to the first view will leave a surplus in the Treasury of near $18,000 to be applied, if the Council think proper, to the purchase of so much stock producing a certain interest to meet a similar amount of interest on the City Stock Debt, or if the Council should think it most advisable, a reduction of 50 cents in the ratio of taxation agreeable to the second view.

By a reference to the summary of the Register, it will be observed that the amount received on Auction Duties the past year has equaled the appropriation for the Harbour and the expenditures in repairing Wharves and deepening the Falls to preserve the Harbour.

The next and not the least important subject to which I would invite the attention of the Council is the preservation of the navigation of the Basin. It appears that formerly the washings from the west side of Hampsted Hill were carried by large gullies westwardly, emptying into Harford Run and the Cove during freshets; the grounds adjacent to the gullies were frequently inundated. To cure this mischief an Ordinance was passed, I think, in 1817, under and in pursuance of which the washings were directed eastwardly, which formed new gullies, discharging a very large portion of the washings through Washington Street into the Harbour on the east side of Fell's Point, whereby very serious injury was done to several wharves and the Harbour. Temporary expedients have from time to time been applied by the Council to correct this very alarming evil, but without any effect. The Council at the session of 1823 passed an Ordinance, the object of which was to remedy this evil. This Ordinance has been executed, and the work directed to be done has been, at a very heavy expense, completed; still the mischief is so far from being remedied it is scarcely diminished. Washington Street, after heavy rains, continues to discharge not only the body of water it formerly did before this last work was executed, but an additional quantity, and the filling up of the Harbour by these washings has increased since 1821 and 1822, when Brantz's Chart was completed.

Immediately in front of Byas's wharf, in 1822, there was nine feet of water. There is now eighteen inches, and at *the end of some piling*, at the distance of a few hundred feet further out, where the depth was formerly twenty feet, it is now between eight and nine feet.

This rapid filling up of the Harbour and injuries done to the navigation on the east side of Fell's Point call for an immediate correction; otherwise the Basin will be filled up,

and the navigation entirely destroyed, in a series of years, southerly, as far as a line drawn from the south-west corner of the Sugar-house Wharf to Gardner's Wharf, where there has been heretofore a depth of twenty feet water. I do not profess to be a competent judge of the manner which is best calculated to relieve this portion of the Harbour from this alarming mischief, but I would presume that directing the immense discharges of Washington and County Streets which exist at present into a variety of different channels from Ann Street westwardly and southerly. By thus diminishing the force of the discharges, the evil might be very considerably, if not entirely, cured, as the most important and valuable interests of the City—indeed its very existence—is involved in the preservation of the navigation of the Harbour. The propriety —nay, the necessity—of referring the subject to practical and experienced and competent persons, to report to the Council the mode most advisable to be adopted and best calculated to remove the evil permanently, and also to report an estimate of the expenses, is respectfully submitted.

An application to the City Commissioners has been made by the competent number of Property Holders to pave Chatsworth Street. The Commissioners have decided that the application cannot be granted, inasmuch as a tunnel is requisite to carry off the flowings of Chatsworth Run, which cannot be made without the interference of the Council. This subject is respectfully recommended to the consideration of the Council.

It does not appear that any particular system for the regulation of the Markets has ever been adopted. An Ordinance passed during the last year relating to venders of certain articles seems not only not to be satisfactory, but has legislated a number of stands and benches vacant, to the injury of the revenues of the City. There exists considerable difficulty in managing the Markets, arising from the want of an efficient system founded upon the simple principle of providing for the convenience and accommodation of the buyer and seller, adopting whatever regulations will best conduce to this desirable object.

It is respectfully submitted to the Council the propriety of delegating an authority to some department of the Corporation to digest, prepare, and report proper regulations for the several Markets, accompanying the same with a plat of the several Markets, exhibiting the stands, benches, etc., and the limits of the respective Markets.

The fact is, the confusion which exists in some of the Markets, as well as the importance of the subject, calls for the serious consideration of the Council.

The law passed during the last session of the Legislature imposing a tax on lands and houses without the limits of direct taxation, but within the exterior limits of the City, "for the repairs of roads and bridges within said limits," has been acted upon by the Superintendents appointed under the Ordinance passed in virtue of said law.

The amount expended and the roads upon which it has been expended, will appear by the report of the Superintendent. The Tax for the year 1824 was imposed on all the assessable property within the said limits, amounting to $306,727, and at 35 cents on the $100, ought to produce $1,073.54. It is to be remarked that the Tax imposed by the Ordinance is upon the assessable property that is both Real and Personal, and the bills of the Collector have been so made out in 1824; the law directs the tax to be imposed on lands and houses. If the act of the assembly regulates the tax, as it is presumed it does, it will be necessary to make the Ordinance conform to the act, or it will be necessary to apply to the Legislature to modify the law so as to extend the tax on Personal property. If the tax shall, as the law directs, be imposed upon lands and houses only, there will necessarily be a diminution in the sum to be raised; it will not exceed $900 in 1825. The amount produced in 1824 by the tax on lands, houses, and personal property has been found very inadequate to the object intended by the law, and if the above reduction shall be made, it will be diminished still farther, and the tax has been imposed to the utmost extent of the law; and it is a fact that no portion of it except a trifling amount remains to be laid

out on the Roads and Bridges, west and north, and some of those Highways in the west, particularly Catherine and part of Biddle Streets are at present almost impassable, and there are many others which require considerable repair, besides bridges to be repaired and built, and the means exhausted. All the circumstances taken into consideration, it is submitted to the Council whether it is most advisable to continue the present deficient system or adopt one upon a principle which will be more extensively useful to the public. It may here be remarked that the tax of 35 cents in the $100 on the assessment within the above described limits of the City, added to the other taxes in the City and County to which the citizens are liable, may be considered already high enough and ought not to be increased.

The Report of the Trustees of the Almshouse is herewith transmitted. It may be remarked that the establishment is extensive and splendid, and the comfort of the paupers and cleanliness appear to be particularly regarded and attended to, and excellent discipline to pervade every department of the Institution.

Some repairs are necessary to be made in the Fish House which was first built in consequence of the bottom timbers in the centre of the building giving way, it being made ground. An estimate of the cost will be furnished by the City Commissioners. An idea, it is understood, has gone abroad that the Fish House produces a large revenue to the City; the fact is not so. By the accompanying official statement, signed by the Register, it appears that the Fish Houses have cost the City $17,593.15, the interest on which is $1,058.58. There has been received in 1824 nett proceeds of the Fish House $1550, making a difference in favor of the Fish House between the item of interest and actual nett receipts of the sum of $495, the whole of which difference will not be more than sufficient to complete the contemplated repairs. It appears to me that the greatest advantage from the Fish Houses is derived by the persons who bring fish to the Market for sale; heretofore the fish were exposed to the weather for inspection.

They are now under cover. Frequently the seller was obliged to sacrifice the sale of his fish. Now they are safely stored—stored at a comparatively small expense, to wait a rise in the market. The buyers of the article in the City have the most right to complain, for the Fish Houses deprive them of the profit of storage and other advantages.

The Ordinance which directs that the rules and regulations of the Calvert Street Spring shall be adopted for the regulation of the other City Springs and for the Centre Market Fountain so far as they are applicable, is totally inoperative, so far as relates to the Centre Market Fountain, no rule or regulation being applicable thereto, and only apply, even in the instance of the Calvert Street Spring, to the the defence of the surrounding premises, and in fact were made by the keeper of the Spring, and not according to the Ordinance on the subject. It is therefore submitted to the Council the necessity of preparing and adopting regulations adapted to the Springs respectively and to the Centre Market Fountain.

Permit me now to approach a subject most particularly interesting to the prosperity of Baltimore as a commercial city: that is a safe and convenient ascending and descending navigation of the River Susquehannah. The light shed upon this subject and the interest felt by the public were particularly gratifying to me who advocated the cause of this rich river thirty years ago, with a view to the best interests of Baltimore and the extensive territory washed by the Susquehannah, and who laboured for successive years to restore the sovereignty of this river to the State, and emancipate the river from the half tolls which in 1799 had most inconsiderably been granted to the Susquehannah Canal Company. From the report of the Commissioners of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to their Legislature, it is no longer to be doubted that there can be effected a safe and convenient ascending and descending navigation, in the manner they point out, during all the seasons of the year, except the season of ice, from the Maryland line to Columbia, and thence to any extent up the river to its navigable source. If the fact stated by them can be relied

upon, then may every confidence be entertained that at least an equally safe and convenient ascending and descending navigation may be effected from the Maryland line to tide-water, for it is a fact not to be controverted that the obstacles in the river from the Maryland line to tide-water are very trifling in comparison with those which exist and have existed between the Maryland line and Columbia. The Susquehannah Canal in Maryland will certainly afford great facility to the ascending boats and at particular seasons to those descending. But the largest number of boats, and particularly arks when the navigation on the bed of the river shall be properly improved, will descend the river to tide, in preference to the Canal, for on the river there will be or can be equal safety and neither detention nor tolls. The interests of the City of Baltimore and of Pennsylvania will in my view be best promoted by the facility of a safe navigation, as well on the Canal as on the bed of the river. To be coerced, as it were, to ascend and descend the Canal and be subject to tolls and delays may operate as a discouragement to bring the produce to the Baltimore Market; whereas a free choice which of them to ascend or descend will act as an inducement to take this route. Again the Susquehannah will be the connecting link to unite the Mississippi, the Ohio, the Alleghany, and the lakes, with the Atlantic. To connect these waters through the Potomac will require, if even reported to be practicable, the intervention of Congress; the expense to be incurred, immense; whereas the other route by Ray's Branch of the Juniatta, the Conemaugh, and Kiskimitus, to the Alleghany, is practicable at a comparatively small expense; besides, while Congress is debating the subject of executing the Potomac Route, the State of Pennsylvania will have completed the Susquehannah Route.

Possessing this view of the subject, it will not be considered improper to recommend to the Council to exercise the utmost of their powers and influence to attain the great object of a safe and convenient ascending and descending navigation of the Susquehannah, and to effect this important and desirable ad-

vantage to our City as speedily as possible. I submit to the Council the propriety of issuing at once certificates of stock to the amount of $40,000, the balance of the $50,000 authorized by law to be issued in a certain number of years, and that a deputation be sent to Pennsylvania to authorize the expenditure of an equal amount, so that in the current year the great work of effecting a safe, easy, and cheap ascending and descending navigation of the Susquehannah may be accomplished without further procrastination, and Baltimore and Pennsylvania be in the immediate enjoyment of all the benefits and advantages to be derived from this immensely rich river. It may be remarked that if the stock debt held by the Sinking Fund Commissioners was cancelled, the amount applied to pay the interest on this stock might be more profitably applied to the payment of the interest on the Susquehannah Stock Certificates to be issued.

It will not be considered extravagant to indulge the expectation that in a few years, the upper part of the great New York Canal will be tapped and thus be connected with the Susquehannah, and the products of the richest portion of the State of New York find their way through the Susquehannah to the Baltimore Market, and for this plain reason that the distance to the Baltimore Market is considerably shorter than to the New York Market, and the expense very considerably less, for it is a fact that the article from the country adjacent to the New York Canal will reach the Baltimore Market, be sold and the proceeds received at the place whence it was exported, before it could arrive by the way of the Canal at New York, besides in the general, the article will command a higher price at Baltimore than at New York.

The Report of the Engineers appointed by the President under the late act of Congress, will be a very interesting document, and will no doubt obtain and deserve the confidence of the public, and whatever it recommends ought and no doubt will be promptly executed and will result in the best advantage to Pennsylvania and Maryland as equally interested in the Susquehanna.

The Resolution which passed on the 23d July last, directing arrangements to be made for the reception of the illustrious and Venerable Patriot and Benefactor General Lafayette, has been executed in the genuine spirit and intention of the Council.

This distinguished character has complimented our City with three visits, during each of which the citizens have testified by every mark of honor and respect, the high estimation in which they hold his valuable, disinterested, and generous services to our country and the veneration they entertain for his many and interesting virtues. Towards the close of this month it is expected the General will honor the City with another visit, and will again give our citizens another occasion of demonstrating that there is no abatement in their heartfelt gratitude respect and warm attachment.

The attention of the City Delegates has been directed to the subject of the cession of the Turnpike Roads within the limits of direct taxation by the several companies, it is expected the measure will be finally acted upon during the present session of the assembly.

The summary of the Register will show the amount of receipts and expenditures during the past year, the receipts and expenditures appear unusually large in consequence of the operations necessary in converting the Stock Debt of the City.

The cash in the Treasury on the 1 January, 1825, amounted to $7,328.37, accompanying this is a communication from Capt. Brantz, together with a Chart of the Harbour, which contains his views on the subject of the Harbour, and the mischief occasioned by the discharges of water through Washington and County Streets, and suggesting some remedies, these views have been politely given by Captain Brantz at my request, as I considered it important to lay before the Council every information on this important subject, which could be conveniently obtained and likely to shed any light upon it. Any measures conducive to the interest of the City adopted by the Council will have my most cheerful concurrence and ready co-operation.

Respectfully,

JOHN MONTGOMERY, *Mayor.*

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, January 2, 1826.

To the First and Second Branches
of the City Council of Baltimore:

Gentlemen:—Under a merciful and kind Providence, the work which has been done within the last five years, on the east and west sections of the Point, and on the Wharves west of Jones Falls, has been attended with the best effects in removing the causes of yellow fever.

At the opening of the last spring, a mass of putrified matter presented itself on the margin of the Cove, along Strawberry Alley, on the west side of the Point; a proper corrective was promptly applied by covering the margin, and giving it a sufficient coat of gravel taken out of the Falls, and sand ballast procured from vessels, so that the whole of the space is restored to a sound appearance.

It may be reasonably calculated that hereafter if ordinary vigilance shall be used, the prosperity of our City will not again be interrupted by this awful scourge.

During this year, some few scattered cases of small-pox have occasionally appeared in the City. The first was the case of a person connected with the circus establishment from Philadelphia. The next was that of a slave brought through Philadelphia to the City by a slave dealer. Several others were brought from a British armed vessel which lay off Annapolis, and some few other instances occurred. By due vigilance and proper care and vaccination, the disease, in every instance was prevented from spreading.

For a more detailed account of the cases of small-pox and the preventives used to stop its progress, reference may be had to the reports of the Consulting Physician and Board of Health herewith transmitted.

In my last annual report it was estimated that the receipts including the direct tax at 2½ per cent. on the amount of assessable property, would exceed the expenditures, and leave a surplus of $17,822. This estimate falls considerably short of the actual fact after discharging all the expenditures authorized by the Ordinances. It appears that there is an excess beyond expenditures, as follows, viz:

A certificate of City 5 per cent. stock received in payment for the powder house land, sold by the Mayor and Presidents of the Council, transferred to the Commissioners of the sinking fund, as an extinguishment of so much of the City debt.	$ 2,891 25
Cash Paid to the Commissioners of the sinking fund, the amount of arrears of interest due them, and the arrearages of the annual appropriation of $6,000 up to the first of October last	$14,563.78
Cash this day in the treasury.....	$19,979.95
	$37,434.98

Receipts beyond expenditures applied in part as above and the balance applicable to the extinguishment of the City debt at the pleasure of the Council. The disposition made of the cash paid to the Commissioners of the sinking fund, will appear by their report. The cash this day in the treasury beyond all arrearages paid to the sinking fund commissioners as above, and in their hands applicable to the City debt, remains subject to the disposition of the Council. The propriety of removing the restriction imposed by the second section of the Ordinance of April 1818, creating the Sinking Fund, is submitted to the Council.

The Commissioners, by that section, are prohibited from paying more for the City stock than its par value, including accruing interest. In the same Ordinance they are authorized to purchase certain other stock, above par, on which purchase by reason of fluctuations, a loss may be incurred, whereas, in the instance of purchasing City stock in the money market, no loss can be sustained by fluctuations, and a portion of the

annual interest, the payment of which will be suspended, will reduce the same to be equivalent to par. The cancelling the amount held by the sinking fund Commissioners, and relieving the citizens from the amount of annual interest payable thereon, is again submitted to the consideration of the Council.

It is conceived that without punctuality in the quarterly payments of the annual appropriation, and the interest thereon to the Commissioners, and strict regularity in investments made by them, which heretofore has been found impracticable from the restrictions imposed on their operations by the Ordinance, and the unavoidable irregularity of the treasury payments.

The system has been and will be inefficient, and the object not to be attained to the extent calculated upon. This is evidenced by the fact, that up to November 1825, that is, during a period of seven years, only the sum of $42,132.79 was paid over in cash to this fund, being the mere amount of the annual appropriation of $6,000, and that, too, without even simple interest, when the active principle of the Ordinance was founded upon compound interest, and in November simple interest alone was paid on the arrears. Therefore it is that I am an advocate for cancelling the stock redeemed, and to be redeemed by the Commissioners, and instead of the payment of interest on the redeemed debt, to apply surplus receipts in the treasury and the proceeds from the City Block and the made ground in the cove, as the purchase of this property forms a principal item in creating the amount of the City debt,

The following exhibits the City debt:

5 per cent. stock	$378,920.20
6 per cent. stock	80,000.00
	$458,920.20
Deduct amount held by the sinking fund Commissioners, including the price of the powder house land	44,924.04
	$413,996.16

Cash paid the sinking fund Commissioners interest due	2,101.60
Cash paid the sinking fund Commissioners, balance of annual appropriation up to 1st of October, 1825.....	12.462.18
Amount in the hands of the sinking fund Commissioners applicable to the City debt.....	$14,563.78
Amount of City debt, deducting that held by the Commissioners of the sinking fund, and cash paid them, applicable to the extinguishment of the debt.....	$399.432.38

Which sum may be further reduced by applying the amount this day remaining in the treasury after leaving $2,000 therein to meet current expenses.

From the above favorable result of the financial operations of the past year, which it may be reasonably expected, will be as favorable the current year, it rests with the Council to decide whether the rate of taxation shall be lessened, or the present rate of taxation shall be continued, with a view to a further and more rapid extinguishment of the debt.

A plat of ground situated in the Cove between Albemarle street and Jones Falls, containing by estimation about nine acres, made by the deposits from the operation of the Mud Machines, is levelled and completed, and ready for any disposition the Council may direct. It appears well calculated for dwellings, and for lumber and coal yards, and may be found valuable for a variety of other uses. To authorize the leasing of it for short terms, might be advisable at present.

The Harbor appropriations having been exhausted, the Mud Machines were laid up earlier than they otherwise would have been, and some claims against the Harbor are laid over, although the auction duties were equal to all demands. As it is contemplated to construct a new machine upon Bratt & Watchman's model, during the current year, the expense of which will exceed the ordinary expenditures of the Harbor, at

least $30,000, it is recommended that the whole amount of auction duties be applied to aid the Harbor appropriation so far as they will extend.

From Pratt Street Bridge to the Drawbridge, the Falls have been generally deepened fourteen feet, with a view of preserving the navigation from the deposits of the Falls during freshets, and a channel of the width of at least two hundred feet and of the depth generally of seventeen, commencing fifty feet from Patterson's wharf has been made to the steam mill, and from the steam mill to within 10 feet of Light street wharf, generally to the depth of thirteen feet. The machines during the season were worked up to Light street, and returned transversely to a point opposite to Bowly's Wharf, when the appropriation failing, they were laid up. The hand Mud Machine is considered not so serviceable as if it was converted into a one-horse machine; a small appropriation for this object is recommended.

The Cove as a place of deposit for the mud raised by the machines in preserving the Harbor is daily contracting. However, the wharves necessary to be made out in the extension, the streets on the south side of the Basin, and the filling up to the Port Warden's line, will supply places of convenient deposit for the mud raised during a number of years, and will also tend to the further improvement of the Harbor.

The one hundred and fifty feet of Pratt Street Wharf, under the limited and unprofitable authority vested in the city by by the existing law is not productive of as much public convenience and usefulness as if it were placed under the same regulations in every respect as other public wharves. It is recommended that an application be made to the Legislature for that object.

The resolution to continue the canal in Harford street, has not been executed, the requisitions contained in the provisions not being complied with by the property holders. Some modification will therefore be necessary before the object of the resolution can be effected. Some improvement on Harford

Run, between Market and Pitt Streets, is necessary to be made for the purpose of preventing the injurious effects upon adjoining property by inundations.

Permit me again to repeat, that an application has been made by the proper number of feet of property owners, to pave Chatsworth street, between Franklin and Mulberry streets, which has not been complied with in consequence of the inundations which would be occasioned thereby of a large portion of the adjoining ground. The improvements of Chatsworth Run, with a view to the paving of Chatsworth street, and also to confine the overflowing so as to preserve the adjoining property from injury, is also recommended.

Accompanying this is the report of the Superintendents of the Baltimore Monument, by which it appears the appropriations last made has been as therein stated unavoidably exceeded, and the reason thereof assigned. To close their final account for the work executed a further appropriation will be necessary. It is with the Council to decide how far the views of the Superintendents may be gratified by an appropriation to complete the finish recommended by them.

As the monument presents a trophy of the arts which strangers may admire and citizens be proud of, and particularly as it will transmit to future generations the gratitude of Baltimore to its brave defenders who died in the Battle and in the Fort, it is respectfully submitted to the consideration of the Council, the propriety of adopting resolutions presenting the thanks of the Corporation to the Monument Committee for their unremitted attention, fidelity and unwearied perseverance in overcoming every opposing obstacle to the finishing of the work; also through the Committee to present the thanks of the Corporation to the distinguished Engineer who projected the plan of the model, for the judgment, skill and ingenuity and taste therein displayed; also to the celebrated Sculptor for the skill, ingenuity and beauty exhibited in the execution of the figure and griffins; also to the Mechanics for their skill, ability and judgment in the precise resemblance of the work to the model,— a which may vie with any work of art in any country.

The propriety of vesting in the City Commissioners with the approbation of the Mayor the power of fixing up lamps in the streets, lanes and alleys, is suggested. The Town Commissioners formerly exercised, the Mayor and City Council at present use it upon special application.

The House of Industry will form the subject of a separate communication hereafter.

A cession has been made of the Turnpike roads within the limits of direct taxation, according to the Ordinances and the Acts of Assembly in that case provided.

The Ordinance regulating the sale of Cattle at the Centre Market was repealed at the last session, and no other place assigned. As a market for the sale of Cattle may be considered of public use and convenience, it is submitted to the Council to make provision for establishing a cattle market. A lot now used for that object on the Falls, between the Horse and Fish Markets, I presume could be obtained in fee simple at a reasonable price, or on a lease for a term of years at a fair rent; or a lot suitable for the purpose, if the Council prefer it, could no doubt be procured in the neighborhood of the Lexington Market.

The opinion of the City Court in a case growing out of the Ordinances regulating the Markets is herewith transmitted, that the Council may modify the Ordinance so as to correct the defect pointed out by the Court.

The Butchers' stalls in the Centre Market are not sufficient in number to supply all who sell meat. No inconvenience will result by authorizing the Clerk of the Markets to rent the permanent and eave benches to persons who sell veal, mutton and lamb by the quarter, in the upper market. The number of permanent and eave benches in this market not rented exceed one hundred.

There is a difficulty in the manner of granting licences to dealers as it regards the term of their ending. It is suggested to the Council to make provision that all those which shall be granted hereafter, shall terminate on the same given day. A particular license for each market instead of the general license to dealers to sell in all the markets is recommended.

The regularity of the several clerks and assistants in collecting, and their punctuality in paying over the rents, has considerably improved the revenue necessary to be raised to defray the expenses of the markets.

With the small sum collected and paid over for the repairs of Roads and Bridges without the limits of direct taxation, considerable work has been done and well finished, for the details the Council are referred to the report of the City Commissioners on the subject.

The increased quantity of Liquor brought to this market, and the consequent increase of the amount received for guager will justify the appointment of another inspector and guager.

The report of the Trustees of the Almshouse is herewith transmitted. There being no building necessary and fit for the employment and confinement of vagrants erected at the Almshouse, the existing Vagrant Law cannot be enforced and executed in consequence of which that description of persons who are able but unwilling to work, and who have no visable means of maintenance, is increasing to an alarming degree in the City, and the evil demands some modification and alteration in the Vagrant Law. It is submitted to the consideration of the Council whether it would not be advisable to apply to the Legislature to make provision for erecting a tread mill for punishing persons of the above description.

Although the convention lately assembled in this City on the subject of internal improvement did not unite in sentiment in some of the important topics discussed, yet we trust that when the Legislature, which represents every section of the State, will act upon the subjects presented to them with a view to the general good, and legislating for a nation on measures of immense consequence, and wherein vast expenditure are involved and valuable benefits expected to result, will, on the one hand, not sanction projects, which though they may be reported practicable, will not be worth the heavy expense necessary to execute them, whilst on the other hand, a liberality will be exhibited in effecting every plan which shall be reported not

only practicable but profitable; that is, that the Legislature will, in every instance, look to the public utility of every measure to be acted upon by them, and adopt such only as the public sentiment will unite in approving.

Upon one topic, however, it is gratifying to reflect, that there was but one opinion in the Convention, that is the intimate connection of the interests of the State with those of Baltimore, and that injury inflicted on the prosperity of the latter would be sensibly felt throughout the extent of the former.

The union of the Ohio, the Potomac and the Patapsco is certainly highly interesting to Baltimore, and when completed every citizen of Baltimore will hail the great event with joyful acclamation, and it is much to be regretted that there are so many clashing interests to be reconciled, so many doubts, provisos, vested rights and obstacles to be removed and consents and assents to be obtained before the work can be commenced, which must necessarily delay the enjoyment of the benefits which will result from its completion. However, whilst this great work shall be maturing and progressing, and until it shall have been finally effected, it will be interesting to the State and to Baltimore to apply their energies with those of Pennsylvania to the ascending navigation of the Susquehanna. The descending navigation, it is understood, has been made safe and convenient. It is calculated that a complete ascending navigation may be effected by means of a canal for the space of not more than fourteen miles, to avoid the Indian steps, Eisleman's sluice and other objects below Columbia, and also by means of dams and locks; and it is understood that a portion of the funds of the ensuing year have been anticipated by the Commissioners for the purpose of purchasing timber for the locks and dams.

When these works shall have been finished in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Baltimore are so deeply interested it is calculated that there will be a certain and safe ascending navigation to the highest sources of the Susquehanna. There are now three steamboats on this river, each ascending the one or

the other branches of the Susquehanna and the Juniatta. They will return freighted with the rich products of the fertile country bordering on these rivers; other steamboats will meet them on the Susquehanna and take in the cargoes of the descending arks, and a fleet of steamboats will arrive at the wharves and establish beyond controversy that the facilities, expedition and economy of steam, navigation will secure to Baltimore the mass of the trade of the Susquehanna and its branches. As these measures involve the best interests of the State immediately connected with the City, it is submitted to the Council that a Memorial be prepared and presented to the Legislature detailing the views of the Corporation upon these subjects.

Accompanying this are the several reports made by the City Commissioners and the Commissioners of Health, not herein referred to.

In acting upon the Digest of the Ordinances, any information that I possess will be cheerfully given to the Council when required.

In compliance with my request, the Superintendents of Sweepers have reported, unofficially, the number of houses in their respective districts within the limits of direct taxation, by which it appears that the aggregate number is as follows, to wit.:

Of one story.....	1,524
" two stories	7,183
" three stories.....	1,608
" Four stories.....	101
	10,416

It is respectfully suggested that an Ordinance should pass imposing it as a duty upon the Superintendants of Sweeps to make an annual report of the number of houses, by which comparing the one with the other in different years, the progressive improvement of the City in this respect may be ascertained with considerable accuracy.

It is considered by many that if it was the duty of the Inspectors of Flour to brand the barrel with the month, the character of the standard of flour would be better preferred.

The summary of the Register will exhibit in detail the receipts and expenditures ending the 31st December, 1825, and it will shew that on that day there was remaining in the Treasury $14,435.46, which sum by this day's operation has been increased as is before stated.

Very respectfully your ob't servant,

JNO. MONTGOMERY.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, January 1, 1827.

Gentlemen of the First and
Second Branches of the City Council:

The return of the appointed period for the assembling of the Representatives of our Citizens affords me an occasion to assure them of my cordial co-operation in providing such laws as may appear necessary to them for their comfort and safety, and in abolishing or modifying such as have been found by experience to be oppressive or unnecessary.

Among the subjects to which your attention will always naturally be directed, the health of our City is perhaps the most important; we have great cause of thankfulness to Providence that we have shared largely in the general good health, which during the past year has pervaded all parts of the country, for this we are unquestionably indebted in a very large degree indeed, to the attention and care which have been heretofore bestowed in the improvement of every situation, which might by possibility engender disease, and to the watchfulness of the City authorities in preventing or abating nuisances of this description—precautions which have by no means been relaxed of late and which will be perseveringly enforced for the future. The experience of Baltimore is especially encouraging in this particular, since the natural disadvantages of its situation as reflected health have been so effectually remedied by various and costly improvements as to have rendered it undoubtedly one of the most salubrious spots in the Union.

The preservation and improvement of the navigation of our Harbor are subjects of hardly less importance than the last, notwithstanding the unremitting attention of the City Council to the deepening of the Harbor, and to the removal of the

causes to which the constant accumulation of mud and sand in it is attributable, it is evident to all persons whose experience and observation have been drawn to the subject that the depth of water in that part of the Harbor west of Fell's Point has not only been much lessened, but is annually decreasing. In compliance with the direction of the City Council to that effect, at their last annual session a contract has been made with Watchman and Bratt, for the erection of a Steam Mud Machine, and a Boat is also building under the superintendance of the Wardens of the Port for the reception of the same. I am led to believe that this plan will in the end effectually remedy the mischief against which we have been contending so long, as the same means have been used with complete success in artificial basins abroad, in which similar accumulations to a greater extent are known to take place.

The works which have been directed to be done by the City Council have been completed as far as was practicable, the progress which has been made in them will appear more particularly by the report of the City Commissioners.

There are several matters, however, which it is respectfully suggested, requires the attention of the City Council.

Those portions of the various Turnpike Roads which have been ceded to the Corporation, will need some provision and appropriations for keeping in repair.

The Wells in many parts of the City are destitute of water and will require to be sunk deeper, and several of the Markets need alterations or additions; in the Belle Air Market the avenues have been found to be too limited in space to allow wagons to turn with convenience or to answer their purpose in other respects, and both the Lexington and Hanover Markets want additional Butcher's Stalls; the latter also requires some repairs.

Some regulation is necessary for the Measurement of Corn in the Ear; and the manner of Cording Fire Wood is a subject of such heavy and repeated complaints, that the Council attention to removing any foundation for them in future is imperiously wanted. I would also draw the consideration of the

Council to the Fire Companies of the City, the regulations of these very useful and laudable associations are so admirably adapted to their purpose and their zeal and activity are so prompt and efficacious, that it is hardly necessary to recommend them to the favorable regard and effectual protection of the municipal Councils though these are undoubtedly wanted in their behalf.

The report of the Trustees of the Poor for Baltimore City and County and of the House of Industry, have been received, both of which will be found to contain much important matter.

The report of the Commissioners for the improvement of the navigation of the River Susquehanna, will be transmitted in a few days.

It will appear from the Registers Summary that though the returns of the City Collector into the City Treasury are not so great in the present as in the preceeding year, yet the difference is very inconsiderable.

The Register has prepared and will lay his accounts before you for examination for the present year, from which it will appear that seven thousand seven hundred and sixty-four dollars and nine cents remains in the Treasury.

It having been resolved at a Public Meeting of the Citizens of Baltimore to appoint Delegates to represent the interests of the City at the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Convention held at the City of Washington, on the sixth day of December last, I was requested to name eight persons for that purpose, the gentlemen selected attended the Convention accordingly and are justly indebted to the thanks of their fellow citizens, for their faithful and judicious manner in which they discharged the duty devolved on them.

It is respectfully submitted to the consideration of the City Council whether it be not advisable to repeal that part of the law which requires the Register of the City to pay annually to the Commissioners of Finance, the sum of twenty-seven thousand dollars, and hereafter to provide not for the annual extinguishment of a portion of the funded debt of the City,

but for the payment of the interest of the stock only. All circumstances considered, it will perhaps be found not less just than expedient to leave the funded to be discharged by those who may succeed us, leaving them at the same time as a fund for its final liquidation and payment the large property owned by the City, and which by every rational calculation may be expected to augment largely in value, the rents of this property meanwhile, and the proceeds of such small portions thereof as it may be deemed prudent from time to time to dispose of, might be paid to the Commissioners of Finance, to be applied together with the funds now in their hands to the payment as before said of the interest only. In the course of the present month the Commissioners will be in possession of upward of twenty-nine thousand dollars, a large amount of which must remain idle unless vested in other than City stock, and if so invested, and in the event of the City stock coming into the market, it would be necessary to sell and perhaps to sacrifice it in order to purchase the City stock. A different disposition of this fund may therefore seem advisable.

When it is considered that the present holders of property in the City have borne the expense of numerous and very costly improvements, that not only they themselves participated in the many privations incident to the late war, but that this property acquired before that period has already long borne the burden of the public debt, which was then unavoidably increased that during the unparalleled state of depression, to which this City was brought shortly after the conculsion of the war, and notwithstanding the great depreciation of property and the continued accumulations of difficulties they were taxed, not only to pay the interest of the debt, but to create also a Sinking Fund, in order to diminish the principal, under all these circumstances it may appear wise and equitable to lighten their burdens by the expedient proposed, and to transfer a portion of the load to their successors if indeed that can be termed a load, which it is believed the augmented value of the Corporation property will by that time be amply adequate to discharge.

The subject is respectfully presented for your consideration under the belief that as you will thus be enabled to reduce your taxes at least one per cent., and thereby enhance the value of the real property, you will induce a spirit of improvement, and afford enployment to the industrious mechanics and labourers of the City.

The ordinary duties of the office the pressure of which is more sensibly felt by a new occupant, have prevented my entering as much into the details of the concerns of the City, as I could have wished, this deficency will be supplied, however, by referring you to the reports of the several municipal departments herewith submitted. It gives me, however, satisfaction to state that there is a visible, a progressive improvement in the City, and that it is steadily advancing in prosperity and importance, and advancement, which will be much promoted by salutary provisions, and by their faithful and rigid enforcement.

JACOB SMALL,
Mayor of the City of Baltimore.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, January 7, 1828.

Gentlemen of the First and
Second Branches of the City Council:

We have great cause to be thankful to a kind Providence for the unprecedented share of good health, we, in common with our fellow-citizens, have enjoyed during the past year. On referring to the Bills of Mortality of our neighboring cities, it will be found that we have been highly favored in this particular; and that the health of our City is annually improving is evident from the report of the Board of Health, which shows that notwithstanding the increase of population the deaths were four hundred and twenty-four less in the past year than in the year preceding.

Though much has been done by the City authorities in removing and reclaiming low, marshy situations in the eastern district of our City, yet much remains to be accomplished in order to insure the entire healthfulness of that vicinity.

The progress made in Vaccination, as directed by a Resolution of 21st March, 1827, and the salutary effects thereof, will be communicated in the report of the Board of Health and Consulting Physician, to whom this important subject has been confided.

The piling and logging on the west line of Caroline Street, as directed by the City Council at their last annual session, have been completed and considerable progress has been made in filling the same.

In consequence, however, of a defect in the Ordinance authorizing contracts with persons who own property on the Cove, it was thought prudent to stop the work rather than endanger the health of that part of the City. Some further

provisions will be necessary in order to enable the Port Wardens to proceed to a completion of the work early in the spring.

It is a source of great gratification to me to state, and it will no doubt be received with similar feelings by every member of our community, that the President and Directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company are successfully advancing with their work. In this project the Corporation as well as the citizens of Baltimore are deeply concerned, both as regards their immediate interest in the stock of the Company and the effects which this splendid scheme of internal improvements if it be successfully accomplished, will not fail to produce on the future prosperity of our City and the State of Maryland at large. So far as I have learned, the Engineers acting under the direction of the Board are making very active and encouraging progress, and the President and Directors entertain no doubts of the practicableness of prosecuting the important work committed to their management, which they are preparing to commence with vigor early in the coming spring.

No improvement has been made on the two squares of ground presented to the citizens of Baltimore by William Patterson, Esq., for a Public Walk, in consequence of the streets in that vicinity not being graded; and it is suggested by persons interested in the property of that neighborhood that the grading had better be deferred, in order that measures may be taken to regrade all the unimproved property in that part of the City, with a view to avoid further injury to Navigation.

To the vigilance of our Firemen (many of whom own no property) may under Providence be attributed the unparalleled degree in which our City has been exempt from any serious fires the past year. They continue to merit the favorable protection of the City authorities.

The Deptford, Columbia and Franklin Fire Companies have erected a very substantial building for the accommodation and safe keeping of their engines and apparatus, with

large and ample rooms in the second story for their company meetings. These when finished will afford excellent school-rooms, the rent of which it is confidently believed will pay the interest of the money expended on the improvement. They have, however, exhausted their means and will require further aid to enable them to complete their building.

Two cisterns have been constructed under the footways in Franklin Street, at the upper reservoir of the Water Company's Works, in order to afford a supply of water in the north-western part of the City to be used in cases of fire, as directed by the City Council at their last annual session. It is submitted whether the construction of two additional cisterns should not be authorized in order to afford increased facilities to the firemen in time of fire, and afford greater security to the property of our citizens in that part of our City.

The Lexington, Hanover, Centre and Fell's Point Market houses have been repaired and improved, as directed by the City Council at their last annual session, and will no doubt add to the revenue heretofore derived. The receipts from those sources for the past year exceed in amount those of the former years, which the following returns taken from the Register's return book will serve to shew:

Returns for 1826.		Returns for 1827.	
Centre Market,	$5,009.82	Centre Market,	$5,674.55
Hanover "	1,148.80	Hanover "	1,472.93
Lexington "	1,981.17	Lexington "	2,763.56
Fell's Point	1,158.24	Fell's Point	1,571.93
	$9,298.03		$11,482.97

By the above it will appear that the revenue from the several markets is $2,184,94 more the past year than the one preceding, notwithstanding the exclusion of domestic manufacturers therefrom.

The improving state of the Belle Air Market, and its consequent importance to that district of the City, would seem to require the finishing of the Market House.

The removal of the Hay Scales further south, and the improvement of the ground, alterations which would justify the collecting of a revenue sufficient to defray at least the annual expenses.

The increased use of this market has caused some inconvenience to be experienced from the narrowness of its avenues, it is submitted, as the lots in the vicinity are unimproved, whether it not be advisable to apply to the General Assembly of Maryland for a law to appoint Commissioners to condemn and value such additional quantity of ground as the convenience of the market may require.

A vacant lot is much wanted in the vicinity of the several markets to be used as a Cow market. Those persons who are in that trade would have no objection to pay for a license for a stand, a price equal to the interest of the purchase.

The railing on the West side of the Falls Avenue, as directed by the City Council at their last extra session has been completed and meets general approbation. There are several other points that seem to require similar protection, viz: On the West side of Falls Avenue from Pratt Street Bridge to Water Street Bridge, and on the East side of the Falls at the foot of Wilkes, Fawn and Stiles Street.

The Tunnelling of Chatsworth Run has been completed as far as directed by the City Council at their last annual session, and will require an extension to avoid injury to private property.

The Walling of Harford Run North of Baltimore and South of Pratt Streets is completed as directed. It is submitted whether the 13 Section of the Supplementary Ordinance for the due performance of quarantine, had not better be so modified as to bring the penalty within the jurisdiction of a magistrate. The Ordinance to regulate the sale of Bread appears to require some additional provisions, and it is submitted, whether it would not be for the public good so to modify the Ordinance as to authorize the appointment of three persons annually, a Merchant, a Miller and a Baker, to meet on the first Monday of each month, to determine the weight and price of Bread for the remainder of the month.

No Ark or Raft should be permitted to be taken above any of the Bridges on Jones' Falls, unless landed on the same day, experience having shown, that a sudden rise of water may prove injurious to the Bridge above which such Ark or Raft may be placed, and to the property contiguous thereto.

An amendment to the Ordinance for the inspection of Turpentine, authorizing an appeal, &c., is much wanted. It is submitted, whether the Ordinance to restrain immoderate riding and driving cannot be so modified as to attain the object in a less objectionable manner—the provisions thereof extended to unpaved Streets, Lanes and Alleys, and a penalty be provided for riding or driving faster than a walk over any of the Wooden Bridges.

David Harris, agent for the Corporation for liquidating the the unsettled claims of the City of Baltimore against the General Government, for money expended in defence of the City during the late war, has made several visits to the seat of Government. His progress in this business will appear by his communication on that subject, herewith submitted.

The Mud Machines have been actively employed in different parts of the basin the past season and it is believed with considerable advantage to the navigation. The Bar at Patterson's Wharf has been partially removed. A Boat has been built under the Superintendance of the Port Wardens, as directed by the Ordinance of 1826, and the Machinery of a steam dredging Mud Machine constructed by Watchman & Bratt, has been placed on board. It has had several partial trials, and although it is attended with a heavy expense to the City, yet it is believed it will meet the most sanguine expectations of the builders, and enable the City to obviate the evil of the washings which have so seriously injured our navigation.

It will become necessary to provide a steam Tow Boat and the necessary fixtures for removing the mud, as authorized by the Supplement to an Ordinance to preserve the navigation of the Harbor of Baltimore, and approved the 20th of March, 1826.

The change made in cleaning the streets as directed by the City Council at their last annual session, has evidently added very much to the comfort of our fellow-citizens, and will as soon as it is generally known that the manure is of a much better quality than formerly, owing to its being separated from the sand and dirt which accumulate after heavy showers of rain, pay a large portion of the expense of scraping and cleaning.

Much difficulty has occurred the past season, and will continue to increase more or less every year, in obtaining places of deposit that will not annoy the neighborhood, and yet not so distant as to make the expense of hauling too great.

The report of the Board of Health will show the operations of the system.

The Ordinance relative to Dogs is found inefficient and will require some additional provision.

It is submitted, whether the Ordinance respecting swine cannot be so modified, as to meet the object with less difficulty.

The water in many of the Wells in different parts of the city is daily decreasing. The Ordinance on the subject seems to require some additional provision. It might, perhaps, be advisable to authorize the City Commissioners in the event of one of those deep wells in the Western part of the City becoming destitute of water, to procure the necessary machines used in boring. If, as is believed by many intelligent persons, a supply of water can be obtained in that way, one of these wells would be a suitable object on which to try the experiment. A further provision is also necessary to authorize the City Commissioners in the event of a well becoming dry, or in such a situation as to be of no benefit to the neighborhood, or in such a state as to make it dangerous to sink it deeper, to dig a new one, use the materials and fill up the old one.

The report of the Trustees of the Poor, for Baltimore City and County, has been received and is herewith submitted. It will be found to contain much interesting matter, by which it will appear that notwithstanding we have added to the number of inmates in the House by clearing our streets of the

numerous paupers with which they were infested, yet it will not be necessary to increase the tax the present year for their support.

It is submitted whether Masters of Vessels arriving at this Port should not be liable to a penalty for landing paupers, idiots, and persons otherwise unable to gain a support by their own exertions, within the limits of the City. A check of this nature would in some measure prevent the great influx of that class of unfortunate beings. An interesting report from the Health Officer is herewith transmitted. The Supplement to the Act to incorporate the Maryland Hospital, passed 13th March, 1827, has not been acted on, in consequence of some of the provisions of said Act not being in accordance with the Resolution of the City Council. The Hospital establishment is at present in possession of Dr. John P. Mackenzie, son of the late Colin Mackenzie whose agreement as directed by the Ordinance of 1821 is herewith submitted; also a report of the Visitors, showing the state of the Hospital buildings, &c. An ample title has been obtained by the Counsel for the City for the two squares of ground, a part of the City Block formerly purchased from D. Bowly's heirs and for which no legal title heretofore existed.

The Resolution of 2nd April, 1827, directing wharves to be erected at the termination of Johnson and Henry Streets, has not been carried into effect, owing to an interference of the supplement to an Act to authorize the filling up and extending of certain lots on the south side of the Basin; passed at December session, 1813, Chapter 69.

It is submitted whether some measures should not be taken to open a street on the south side of the Basin, for the purpose of giving access by land to the manufacturing establishments in that part of the City.

The very rough state of our streets generally demands the consideration of the City authorities. This condition is partly owing to a want of proper attention in assorting the paving stone, when they were originally paved, and their present uneveness has been greatly increased by frequent and unavoida-

ble repairs of the Water Company's Works. It is respectfully suggested whether in the event of repairing or paving new streets, two lines of large stones should not be laid in the centre of the street of sufficient width to permit any necessary repairs, and beyond which the Water Company should not be permitted to pass except to lay and repair branch pipes to convey water for private use, and in all cases where a breach is made in any paved street, lane or alley, the cavity to be filled with dry earth and rammed and immediately repaved, which would in a great measure prevent the many and almost daily complaints on the subject. The attention of the City Council is respectfully requested to the state of the several Turnpike Roads, within the limits of direct taxation, and particularly to tho dangerous situation of Centre Street.

It is submitted whether a Record Book should not be made out by the City Commissioners laying down plats of all property belonging to the City, from whom purchased, and to whom sold or leased, to which a reference might always be had without so much tedious and unpleasant research.

The new arrangement for regulating the Police of the Jail, it is believed will considerably lessen the expenses of the City Court in this particular. Several changes have been suggested in the organization of that Court, by which it is supposed its expenses may be considerably lessened, and as this is a subject of the first importance to the taxable portion of our fellow citizens, and on which there have been such reiterated complaints, and as an investigation can do no injury, even should it not eventuate in a reduction of the expenses, it is respectfully submitted to your consideration.

The ideas suggested to me on this subject shall be communicated hereafter.

Some additional provisions appears necessary to the supplement to an Ordinance, relative to the Inspection and Storage of Fish in the City of Baltimore.

There being no suitable application to rent the City Fish Houses, a person was appointed to take charge of the same, as directed by the provisions of the 3d Section of the Supplement

to an Ordinance, relative to the Inspection and Storage of Fish in the City of Baltimore. His return shewing the expenses and emoluments arising therefrom is herewith submitted.

The Wooden Foot Bridge on Madison Street, over Jones' Falls, was owing to its decayed state removed by the City Commissioners. The Wooden Bridge on Bath Street generally, called Fenn's Bridge, is in such a decayed state as to require to be replaced by a new one.

The Resolution relative to the Centre Market Fountain has not been carried into effect as therein directed, owing to the construction of the fountain, which will appear by the report of the City Commissioners herewith submitted.

I am instructed to state that the improvements on the bed of the River Susquehannah are advancing with every prospect of advantage.

Some additional Provisions to the Ordinance on the subject of Pawn Brokers will be necessary, a communication on that subject is herewith submitted.

The appropriation of last year for the Repairs of Fire Plugs, was found inadequate, the particulars of which will appear in the report of the City Commissioners.

A difficulty has presented itself in the Walling of Jones' Falls, as directed by 5th Section of the Ordinance, to provide for the improvement of Jones' Falls, passed 8th February, 1826. Some additional provisions will be necessary to enable the City Commissioners to comply with the same. The Law of Congress, authorizing the collection of a tonnage duty, will expire on the 3d of March 1828. Our Representatives have been written to on the subject, who will no doubt give it their usual attention.

The Resolution relative to a site of a Monument to the Memory of the Late Col. Armistead, has not been carried into effect. The design of that Monument being such that it cannot stand in an isolated position; it is submitted whether the niche at the Calvert Street Spring would not be a more suitable situation.

By a Report of the Register, the following serves to show the amount of the City Stock Debt at the close of the year 1827:

Amount of 5 per cent Stock, redeemable at the pleasure of the Corporation, after the 1st day of January, 1832, including the amount held by the Commissioners of Finance.....	$318,474.45
Amount of 6 per cent. Stock, redeemable at the pleasure of the Corporation, after the 31st of December, 1838.....	80,000.00
	$398,474.45
Deduct the amount of 5 per cent. Stock purchased by the Commissioners of Finance, during the year 1827, and now held by them to be cancelled at the present session of the City Council.	8.316.00
	$390,158.45

Leaving the amount of the City Stock debt, $390,158.45, it is evident from the amount of City Stock purchased by the Commissioners of Finance during the past year, that a much less amount than has heretofore been placed at their disposal for the purchase of such City Stock, as may from time to time be offered in the Stock Market will suffice, and the policy of their having so large a sum placed to their credit is very doubtful, as no such amount of Stock is likely to thrown in to the market in any one year, consequently a very large sum must remain unproductive. It is submitted whether the Commissioners of Finance should not be authorized to pay over into the hands of theCity Register the balance remaining in their hands at the close of the year 1827, to wit: $23,823 41, and that no money should hereafter be paid to the Commissioners of Finance, except on Drafts signed by them for the payment of such amount of Stock as may be purchased at the date of such Draft, limiting the amount to be purchased in any one year to

the amount of the several sums of money directed to be paid by the Register to the Commissioners of Finance, by the 6th Section of the Ordinance, relative to the Public Debt.

On taking a retrospective view of the operations of the corporation for the past year, the heavy expenditures in improvements for the comfort and convenience of our fellow citizens, and the unavoidable expenses incident to a Corporation, we find the following unparalleled amount to the credit of our City Treasury, which is conclusive that there has been no want of prudence and economy in the respective departments in the expenditure of Public Money:

Amount of Cash in Bank to the Credit of the Commissioners of Finance, on the 31st December, 1827	$23,823.41
Amount of Cash in Bank, it being the balance in favor of the City Treasury, on the 31st of December, 1827	21,918.32
	45,741.73

As the above sum of 45,741.73 is subject to the future disposition of the City Council, it is reasonable to conclude, that although the Corporation have entered into very heavy engagements to improve the Navigation, and have liberally embarked in internal improvements with a view thereby to increase the the general prosperity of the City, all the improvements necessary to the convenience and comfort of our fellow citizens, can by a prudent economy be accomplished, without its being necessary to add one cent to the present rate of taxation.

The City Register will, as usual, lay his accounts for the year 1827 before you for your examination.

JACOB SMALL, *Mayor.*

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

Mayor's Office,
Baltimore, January 5, 1829.

Gentlemen of the First and Second Branches
of the City Council of Baltimore:

This being the period directed by the Charter of the City for the assemblage of the representatives of the people, affords me an opportunity of laying before you a statement of the concerns of the Corporation for the past year.

As the Health of the City is a subject of the first importance, so will it no doubt claim your early attention, and although the population of our City has considerably increased, owing to the great influx of strangers engaged on the public works in the vicinity, its general health, under the protection of a merciful Providence, has during the past year remained unimpaired. But although we have been thus highly favoured; much remains to be done in order to insure a continuance of the health of the Eastern part of the City.

From the vigilance of the Health Officer and the unwearied exertions of the Board of Health and Consulting Physician, the community have, with few exceptions, escaped that loathsome disease, the Small Pox, it is submitted whether it would not be prudent to authorize the Board of Health to direct the annual Vaccination of all persons, who may require this preventative.

That part known as the Cove, on the east side of Caroline Street, has been filled up, so far as the piling and logging have been authorized; but in order to enable the Port Wardens to proceed to a completion of the work the ensuing season, a line of piling and logging will be required on the south side of City Dock, being the north line of Dock Street. The west side of Albemarle Dock will also require piling and logging

and some improvement will be necessary to convey the water of South Caroline Street over the low ground into the City Dock.

As great inconvenience is experienced and the health of the citizens endangered by the depositing of kitcken offals, in the streets, lanes and alleys of the City, and by their being kept in back yards during the warm season, it is submitted, whether it would not be advisable to authorize the Commissioners of Health to direct the construction of a sufficient number of tight carts, to be placed under the direction of the Superintendents of Streets, which carts should be required to pass through such parts of the City as may be indicated by the Commissioners of Health, between sunrise and nine o'clock of each day, (Sunday excepted,) from the first day of June to the first day of October, in order to receive all kitcken offals; the driver of such cart to be provided with a bell, to announce his arrival and to serve as a signal for servants, who shall be compelled, under a penalty (to be paid by the occupier of such house) to deposite all kitcken offals in said carts, to be conveyed to a place designated as a deposite for street manure.

The two squares of ground presented to the citizens of Baltimore, by William Patterson, Esq, for a public walk, have been enclosed by a substantial pale fence; trees planted, and a small tenament erected thereon, which is occupied by a person free of rent, as compensation for his services in affording security to the premises.

The several Fire Companies of our City continue to merit their high standing; to their vigilance and extraordinary exertions must be attributed the preservation of the Belvidere Bridge, during the late fire at Keller & Foreman's Cotton Spooling Mill. On that occasion they evinced a zeal and perseverance worthy of the fostering hand of the Corporation. It is respectfully suggested whether it would not be prudent to effect insurance upon this costly structure.

The great inconvenience experienced for want of water for the extinguishment of Fires in the north eastern parts of the City will require some provision to authorize the City Com-

missioners to obtain a better supply from the Water Company's Works, or otherwise as the City Council may direct, great difficulty also exists in obtaining Water from Jones' Falls for the above purpose, owing to the difficulty of access in consequence of the height of the Walls thereof, it is submitted whether it would not be advisable to authorize the construction of Cisterns in the adjoining streets, to communicate with the water of the Falls, in order to afford greater facilities to the firemen, in preserving the property of our citizens on those calamitous occasions.

The upper apartment of the Deptford, Columbian and Franklin Fire Companies' engine house has been finished by the present tenants, who are to occupy it for the use of a select school, at a rent of one hundred and twenty dollars per annum, commencing on the 1st day of September last, until the amount of rent shall equal the amount so expended by them.

A substantial wooden bridge has been erected over Jones' Falls at Bath Street; also a foot bridge on Madison Street. The execution of the resolution directing that a wooden bridge be built over Jones' Falls at Centre Street has been suspended, owing to the unsettled title of the land on which the western abutment of the bridge is situated. This bridge has been repaired, and may probably last for several years. It would, however, be advisable to continue the appropriation.

The Draw Bridge is in a very decayed state. It being the great thoroughfare to and from Fell's Point, should any occurrence take place to make it impassable it would prove a very great inconvenience to the public. In order to guard against an event which is apprehended, and to avoid the delay which generally attends the rebuilding of a structure of this kind, it is submitted whether it would not be advisable to make some provision authorizing the City Commissioners to procure materials of the most durable kind for a new bridge, with power to change its construction if found necessary in order to afford greater facilities in the draw, and to have the workmanship thereof in such a state of preparation as the nature of the case will admit.

The receipts of the several markets from which a revenue has been heretofore derived exhibit a gradual improvement for the past year, and exceed in amount those of the year preceeding.

A title to the additional ground to be added to the avenues of the Belle Air Market, as contemplated by the Ordinance of March, 1828, has been received from the heirs of the late Col. Nicholas Rogers. The improvement of the market, and the removal of the hay scales, as therein directed, have been completed. The ceiling of the market house not having been heretofore plastered, renders it very uncomfortable to those victuallers who occupy it. A further provision will therefore be necessary for this purpose, as also for painting the wood work thereof which is suffering.

The roof of the South end of the lower Centre Market House is in very bad condition, as also that of the south end of the lower Fell's Point Market House, both of which will require considerable repairs and very probably new covering, the ensuing season. The Lexington and Hanover Market Houses are at present in a good state of repair.

The Western Hay Scales are found to be too contracted to admit large wagons loaded with hay or straw. They will require a new scale beam of greater power, the present one having been much impaired, being found too weak for heavy drafts; and the passage to admit the wagons will require to be made wider, etc.

The hand rail on Jones' Falls and Harford Run has been completed, as directed by the resolution No. 15, of February, 1828, and affords security to our citizens. The walling of Harford Run has been continued southerly, as directed by Ordinance. The walling of a part of Jones' Falls, as directed by the Resolution of April, 1828, has been executed; but the efforts of the City Commissioners in enforcing the provisions of the Ordinance of February, 1826, requiring the owners of property on Jones' Falls to erect walls, etc., have continued to prove unavailing. It is submitted whether the City Commissioners should not be authorized to have the work done, thereby to avoid future injury to the navigation; and require the owners of property to pay the expenses thereof.

The Tunnel Bridge over Chatsworth Run at its intersection with Fayette Street has been completed, and the water from Run Alley passed over the surface of Fayette Street and continued southerly into Chatsworth Run, over a lot of ground purchased by the City Commissioners, as directed by the City Council at their last annual session, for that purpose.

The wharfing of Johnson and Henry Streets has been commenced, and that of Henry Street is completed, but that of Johnson Street, owing to the delay of piling and logging, has been deferred until the ensuing season, and will therefore require the balance of appropriations to be continued.

The regrading of South Calvert Street, as directed at the extra session of June last, is in progress, but could not be completed during the past season, as the award of the Commissioners who were appointed by the Judges of Baltimore County Court to assess the damages on said street requires the approval of the said Judges at their sitting in next March term; it will therefore be advisable to continue the appropriation to be applied to this object the ensuing spring.

The Resolution directing the opening and cutting down of Hughes Street has not been carried into effect, owing to one of the proprietors of property having declined to comply with the provisions of the Resolution of the City Council at the extra session in June last. It is respectfully submitted whether an application should not be made to the General Assembly of Maryland at their present session to extend the power contained in the Second Section of the Act of the General Assembly relating to the City of Baltimore, etc., (see Ordinance, Book of 1826, page 63) to other than made ground, in as much as the situation of one piece of property of inconsiderable value may prevent the improvement of an entire neighborhood, as is the case in the present instance, and I would respectfully suggest that the appropriation should be continued, in order that the object and views of the City Council may be carried into effect the ensuing season.

The appropriation for the repairs of Pennsylvania Avenue and Baltimore Street, West, has been applied as directed and

has partially removed the evil; but such is the constant travel upon these two great inlets to our City that the repairs heretofore made have had but a temporary effect. In time of wet weather they are almost impassable.

It would, perhaps, be sound policy to make an effort toward a more permanent improvement by paving, McAdamizing or stoning. It is very certain that the annual expense of repairs will in a few years amount to a sum more than equal to the interest of the cost of a more permanent improvement.

Herewith is transmitted a printed report of the proceedings of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, by which it will appear that they are making the most favorable progress in the work.

No communication has been received from them on the subject contained in the 69th Resolution of the City Council, passed April, 1828. This is a subject of great importance, and will claim the consideration of the City Council at their present session.

The Loan authorized by an Ordinance of the City Council, in June last, to meet the instalments of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, has been obtained on favorable terms. Some additional provisions will be necessary in order to meet the future calls of that company.

The Mud Machines have been actively employed throughout the past season, and it is believed with beneficial effect to the navigation.

The steam dredging mud machine constructed by Watchman and Brant is completed and has been for some time in successful operation. It will be found to be a most valuable acquisition in deepening the Basin. But although this machine will raise an immense quantity of sediment, it can only be advantageously employed in the Basin. It will therefore be necessary to continue in use one of the large horse power machines and the small one, to be used for the purpose of cleaning docks, etc.; the remaining two may be usefully employed by being converted into discharging machines. Provision should perhaps be made to authorize the Port Wardens

to have the bottom of the boat which contains the steam dredging machine coppered on the first occasion that may require her being hauled up for repairs.

The Resolution relative to Centre Market Fountain has been carried into effect, and has removed the difficulty heretofore complained of.

The Resolution relative to placing the Monument to the memory of the late Col. George Armistead in the niche in front of the keeper's building at the Calvert Street Fountain has been carried into effect.

It is respectfully submitted whether the Ordinance relative to dogs should not be so modified as to exonerate persons from the annnal tax who reside out of the line of direct taxation. Those persons not having the benefit of lamps or watchmen consider the Ordinance very oppressive.

Two experiments have been made in boring for water in wells of rocky bottom, one in the western and the other in the eastern part of the City. The latter has proved successful, and affords a copious supply of water; no attempt has been made in wells composed of common earth, owing to the expense of the machinery, &c.

County Street has been paved as directed by the resolution (No. 39) of March 1828.

The rough state of our streets is a continued source of complaint; it is respectfully submitted, whether it would not be well to commence repaving some of those in preference to the continual expense of repairs.

It appears advisable to authorize the piling and logging of the east end of Montgomery Street, as far as the Port Warden's Line; it would not only be a convenient deposit for the sediment taken out of the Basin, but would prevent the immense washing which in time of heavy rain is passed into the most important part of the navigation.

The distributive share of the School Fund, to which the City of Baltimore was entitled, has been received from the treasurer of the Western Shore of Maryland and placed in the hands of the Commissioners of Finance as directed by the Ordinance relative to the School Fund, &c.

The case of Manhardt, Agt., S. Chase, Jr., has not been arranged as contemplated by the Resolution of the City Council at their extra Session of September 1828, this subject will therefore again be submitted to your consideration at the present Session.

It is respectfully submitted whether Masters of Vessels arriving at this port, should not be held accountable, (under a penalty,) for landing persons within the City who come under the denomination of paupers and who are otherwise unable to support themselves by their own exertions.

As repeated applications have been made to this office to obtain appeals from the judgment of the Inspector of Butter and Lard, also from the Inspectors of Turpentine and Staves and Heading; it is submitted whether provision should not be made to authorize appeals in all cases where inspections are made under the City authority.

The cording of fire-wood is a constant subject of complaints and merits the consideration of the City Council; some provision would seem to be necessary to require all wood sold out of wood-yards within the limits of the City to be corded by a sworn corder, &c.

As considerable inconvenience is experienced by the citizens for want of a provision in the Ordinance for the inspection and measurement of Lime and Charcoal; it is submitted whether it would not be advisable to authorize persons under license to convey Charcoal through the streets, and retail the same in small quantities for culinary and other purposes.

Some provision is necessary in order to authorize the collection of the expenses incident to appeals from the decision of the City Commissioners, &c.

The Resolution of April 1828, directing the City Commissioners to carry into effect a Resolution of the Gas Light Company of the 6th of February, 1828, has been complied with as therein directed.

The City's proportion of the funds, belonging to the late Levy Court of Baltimore County, has been received and paid into the City Treasury.

The amount allotted to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore by an act of the General Assembly of Maryland, to provide for the valuation and condemnation of certain real estate in the City of Baltimore, has been received, and placed in the hands of the Commissioners of Finance, as directed by a Resolution of the City Council, approved August, 1827.

The release of Mary Cressop in and to a lot of ground, purchased by the Mayor and City Council, for the Eastern Potter's Field, has been obtained as directed by Resolution of February, 1828

The Baltimore Exchange Company have acceeded to the terms stated in the resolution of the City Council of February 1828.

Centre Street has been repaired as directed by the City Council, but from its situation will require additional repairs the ensuing spring, an appropriation for this object will therefore be necessary.

The Survey and Chart, as directed by the 13th Resolution of February 1828, has been completed, and will be submitted by the Port Wardens.

The Drain or Ditch directed to be dug on the east side of South Light Street, has been completed, and has had a tendency to relieve Henrietta Street and Williamson Alley, but has in time of heavy rain caused a greater body of water to flow into South Charles Street in consequence of which the curb stones on the west side of said street are frequently washed away; some additional provision will be necessary to avoid the continued expense of keeping the footway in repair.

Considerable difficulties have occurred in the collection of Wharfage on Dugan's Wharf, the merits of which question and the vexatious course this unpleasant controversy has taken, will be a subject of investigation for the City Council at their present session. A statement thereof will be submitted by John Scott, Esq., Counsellor for the City.

The Resolution of the extra session of September 1828, (No. 2,) on the subject of Dugan's and McElderry's Wharves, has been complied with.

By the provision contained in the 21st and 22nd Sections of the Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at the last December Session, relative the sales by public auctions, it is provided that the sum of twenty thousand dollars, (20,000,) be annually appropriated, to be paid out of the proceeds of duties arising from sales at public auctions for the purpose of deepening and improving the Harbor of the City of Baltimore, &c., and that the treasurer of the Western Shore be, and he is hereby authorized to disburse and pay the same to the Mayor and City Council, &c., who shall report annually to the Legislature on or before the first day of January, a fair and distinct account of the disbursements in relation to the improvement of the said Harbor.

From the above provisions it will appear that the amount to be received can only be drawn annually, and that no precise time is stated; and that an account of the disbursements is to be annually forwarded to the Legislature, on or before the first day of January, &c.; some legislative provisions will therefore be necessary on the part of the City Council, in order to authorize a compliance with the above requisitions.

It is submitted whether an application should not be made to the General Assembly of Maryland at their present session, to amend the aforesaid act, so as to authorize the treasurer of the Western Shore to pay the amount so to be received quarterly or semi annually, and to define the periods at which said amount may be drawn, otherwise the City authorities will be under the necessity of providing in anticipation, means to meet the current expenses incurred in deepening and improving the navigation.

As the opening and extensions of Lombard Street will claim the attention of the City Council at their present session, it is respectfully submitted whether the favorable opportunity afforded in the grading of said street should not be embraced by altering the grade of Hanover Street, so as to convey the water which at present passes through the very noxious sewer of Uhler's Alley, over the surface of said alley.

As the excavations of footways for vaulting, and the opening of areas for steps leading into cellars, &c, is attended with great danger and inconvenience to the public, and often with considerable expense to the Corporation in repairing streets, &c., and as permissions for this purpose have heretofore been granted by the City Commissioners, under an implied power contained in the 15th section of the ordinance to appoint Superintendents of Streets, &c. It is submitted whether some provisions should not be made, not only requiring a compensation for such priviledge as in the case in our neighboring Cities, but also regulating the extent to which footways may be taken up for any purposes of this nature pointing out, from whom permission is to be obtained, and requiring persons to secure all openings in any of the footways of the streets, lanes or alleys of the City, while in the act of making repairs or improvements.

The report of the Trustees of the poor of Baltimore City and County has been received, and it herewith transmitted, by which it will appear that although there has been a considerable increase in the number of inmates in the house during the past year, owing in some measure to the influx of strangers who are employed in the vicinity the expenses for the support of the establishment will be considerably less for the current year than those of the past, which is conclusive evidence that there has been no relaxation in exertions or attention on the part of those to whose care and management this important trust has been confided.

An arrangement has been made with the Trustees to receive all swine taken up, as directed by the City Ordinances.

The Reports of the Commissioners of Health, the Consulting Physician and the Health Officer have been received, and are herewith transmitted.

The Reports of the City Commissioners and Port Wardens have been received and are herewith transmitted.

The Report of the proceedings of the Commissioners of Finance will be submitted on an early day of the session.

David Harris, agent for the Corporation for liquidating the unsettled claims of the City of Baltimore against the General Government for money expended in defence of the City during the late war, has made a visit to the seat of Government during the present session of the Congress of the United States; his communication on this subject is herewith transmitted.

The report of the keeper of the City Fish House is herewith transmitted. The wharf attached thereto will require considerable repairs, the ensuing season, for which a provision will be necessary.

The Policy of Insurance on the City Fish House having expired, Insurance has been effected as directed by the Resolution of April, 1826, in the Firemen's Insurance Company of Baltimore, for one year from the 2nd day of April, 1828.

By a report of the City Register the following serves to show the amount of the City Stock Debt at the close of the year 1828:

Amount of 5 per cent. Stock redeemable in the year 1832, including the amount of $3,130 purchased by the Commissioners of Finance since last annual report, and not yet cancelled	$309,958.45
Amount of 6 per cent. Stock redeemable in the year 1838	80,000.00
Amount of 5 per cent. Stock redeemable in the year 1838, issued to meet the payment of installments upon the Stock held by the City in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company	20,000.00
	$409,958.45
Deduct the amount of 5 per cent. Stock purchased by the Commissioners of Finance during the year 1828, and now held by them to be cancelled at the present session of the City Council	3,130.00
Leaving the amount of City Stock Debt	$406,828.45

The City Register has prepared and will, as usual, lay his accounts for the year 1828 before you for examination, by which it will appear that there is no material difference in the returns of the City Collector into the City Treasury for the past year and those of the year preceeding, and that notwithstanding the loss of the auction duties (which may be estimated at a sum equal to $20,000) which the Corporation of the City of Baltimore has been deprived by an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland. At their last annual session there remained a balance of $23,465.08 in the hands of the Commissioners of Finance, and a balance of $15,055.09 in the City Treasury, making together a sum equal to $38,520.17, subject to the future disposition of the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOB SMALL, *Mayor.*

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, January 4, 1830.

Gentlemen of the First and Second Branches of the City Council of Baltimore:

A Merciful Providence has permitted us again to assemble in annual session, in order to provide such measures as shall be found necessary to aid in a continuation of the comforts and blessings, we, in common with our fellow citizens, have enjoyed during the past year.

Amongst the most important subjects that lay claim to your consideration is the health of our city, to the preservation and continuation of which your early attention will no doubt be drawn.

That our fellow citizens have enjoyed a greater share of health throughout the past year than those of our neighboring Cities, will appear evident on referring to the Bills of Mortality as published by them. To the vigilance of the Health Department and the precautionary measure of a general vaccination, may be attributed the entire absence of that loathsome disease, the small-pox; not one case having occurred among our citizens during the past year, although we have been thus highly favored, much yet remains to be done.

That part of the City east of Caroline Street called the Cove, has been completed so far as to hope for a continuation of health in that neighborhood, and the part of Caroline Street between Lancaster and Alice Ann Street is also much improved by being filled with gravel taken out of Jones' Falls.

The additional assessment for the year 1829, has been completed, agreeably to the provisions of the Ordinance of the last annual session of the City Council; it is submitted whether the public interest does not require a provision for the annual

performance of this duty. The Assessors have made a return of the indigent deaf and dumb white persons within the City, a copy of which has been forwarded to the Governor of Maryland as is required by the act of Assembly.

An arrangement has been effected with the first and second Dispensaries for the reception of all lost children; this measure has fully met the humane views of the City Council, and has had a tendency to relieve the anxiety of parents and guardians.

The Loan authorized at the extra session of the City Council in August last, to meet the calls of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company has been obtained and applied as directed.

The Public School system has been commenced; the report of the Commissioners herewith transmitted will exhibit their progress and the expenses incurred. Some provision will be required for a gradual increase of those valuable institutions.

The distributive share of the School Fund for the year 1829, to which the City of Baltimore was entitled by the act of Assembly, has been received from the treasurer of the Western Shore of Maryland, and placed in the hands of the Commissioners of Finance, subject to the order of the Commissioners of Public Schools.

The Physicians appointed to Vaccinate all who might require that preventative against small-pox, have performed that duty; the number vaccinated may be ascertained by reference to the Report of Health. The performance of that duty would appear to be annually required as the only safe preventative against that loathsome disease.

The several Fire Companies of our City continue to sustain their high character for vigilance and activity in the time of fire. Our City has, however, been highly favored in this particular, the past year.

The distance from which the Belvidere Bridge is situated from the thickly settled parts of the City and the cost of erecting this structure would seem to justify some precautionary measure to guard against mischief, accidental or design; it is, therefore, submitted whether it would not be prudent to authorize an insurance upon the same against loss by fire.

The Fire Plugs required to be erected at the last annual session, have been completed, and the removal of those directed to be removed, could not be accomplished owing to a difficulty in the iron pipes.

The Gas and Oil Lamps directed at the last annual session of the City Council, have been erected, and considerable improvements made in arranging the Oil Lamps in other parts of the City. Much, however, remains yet to be done, in order that these lamps may produce the best light that they are capable of giving.

The improvement of that part of Bowley's Wharf, commencing at James Barrolls corner, has been completed; the improvement of the part on South Street could not be carried into effect, in consequence of some of the parties of property omitting to comply with the provisions of the Ordinance on that subject.

Isaac McKim has declined to avail himself of the provisions of the Ordinance relative to an extension of South Gay Street.

The difficulties which have for some years existed in the collection of wharfage upon Dugan's Wharf, are increasing, as will appear by the fact that an additional injunction has been laid during the past year, the dissolving of which it appears depends upon the close of the former. Why that injunction is permitted to remain so long unsettled is a question which I am not prepared to answer, but take leave to refer you to the Counsel for the City. It is respectfully submitted whether some more decisive measures could not be authorized in order to bring this unpleasant controversy to a final issue.

A substantial Stone Tunnel Bridge has been erected over Chatsworth Run at Pratt Street, as directed by the City Council at their last extra session.

The decayed state of Centre Street Bridge over Jones Falls, and the impaired state of the eastern abutment rendered it unsafe, and it was in consequence taken down and rebuilt, and a substantial wooden Bridge erected on its site.

The Wooden Bridge over Harford Run at Bank Street, and the graveling of Canal Street has been completed.

The Centre Fish Market Bridge has been repaired, but from its decayed state, will, it is believed, require to be replaced by a new one during the present year; some provision will therefore be necessary for this object.

Canal Street, north and south of Gough Street, has been gravelled. Market Street, Fells Point, has been gravelled from Wilk to Gough Streets; some provision will be necessary to the completion thereof the present year.

Dawson and Laurence Lots, at or near the intersection of the south line of Alice Ann, and west side of Washington Streets, have been obtained, the piling and logging completed, and considerable progress made in deepening the navigation in that vicinity.

Some provision will be necessary in order to enable the City Commissioners to fill up that part of Concord Street, between Pratt and Bowly Streets, the present year, it being too low to convey the water in time of rain.

The cutting down of Hughes Street has been contracted for, and considerable progress made in the work.

The piling and walling of Johnson and Henry Streets have been completed, and the streets in part filled, but not of the height necessary for convenient landing. It will, therefore, be requisite to continue the unexpended balance of the appropriation to complete the work the present year.

Some provision will be necessary for the purpose of enabling the City Commissioners to fill up the several streets and alleys south of Lee Street, between Johnson and Henry Streets, simultaneously with the similar improvement by the owners of lots fronting thereon.

The piling and logging of Covington and Montgomery Streets have been suspended, owing to a difficulty with the proprietors of property, which, it is believed, will be removed the ensuing season; it is, therefore, recommended that the appropriation be continued in order that the object contemplated may be effected the present year.

West Baltimore Street and Pennsylvania Avenue have been improved as directed by the Resolution of the City Council of

the last session, the effect of which has been such as to remove the evil so justly complained of; it is submitted whether it would not be better to authorize those streets to be covered with broken stone in preference in which they have been heretofore been repaired.

As some difficulty exists in the graduation of Baltimore Street west, it is submitted whether an application should not be made to the General Assembly of Maryland at their present session, to authorize the appointment of Commissioners with full power to regrade any of the streets, lanes or alleys of the City, in which an error may have been heretofore made.

A title has been obtained from Richard A. Shipley for the lot on Chatsworth Run, over which the water of Run Alley is passed.

The Walling of Harford Run has been extended southerly; the present year will complete the object.

The Commissioners appointed for the extension of Eutaw Street have performed that duty; a report of their proceedings is deposited in the Register's office.

Falls Street will require a gutter to be passed down the centre, in order to pass off the water of Bowers Sewer.

Centre Street will require some improvement the present year, particularly at its intersection with Charles Street, the latter being one of the direct, and when improved, the most convenient street by which the Washington Monument can be approached. As this splendid structure erected in gratitude to the founder of our liberties, is not only the pride and boast of our City, but an object of general admiration, I would recommend that the chasm at the crossing of Centre Street, should at least be made passable, in order that this magnificent object may be approached with greater facility.

The several Streets and Alleys in the vicinity of Hughes Street will require regrading to give access to the Wharves, &c.

The provisions of the act of Assembly relative to the manner of paving the unpaved streets of the City, have impaired the power of the Corporation over footways, &c. It is respect-

fully submitted whether application should not be made to obtain a restoration of this power to enable the City Council to provide for this subject.

The Fish House Wharf will require considerable repairs the present year.

The several Markets from which a revenue was heretofore derived, continue to improve and exhibit a gradual increase in their receipts for the past year.

The roof of the Hanover Market House requires extending on Hanover Street; the wood work wants painting, and the curbstones to be moved out in order to make the eave stands tentable in bad company.

The Centre Market House requires considerable repairs and improvements; the wood work wants painting, and the ceilings whitewashing. Many of the brick pillars want repairs; the brick pavement in the vicinity of the butchers' stalls, is worn into holes, which are receptacles for filth, and become very offensive in warm weather; many of the bricks are so thin as to make it impracticable to have them repaired. The roof of the lower Market House, particularly the east side, is so decayed as to require the ceiling to be frequently replastered during the year. The stalls not being tenantable during wet weather; the revenue of that part of the Market has been reduced.

The Fire Plugs that were directed to be removed for the purpose of washing the Market has not been accomplished, owing to the limited amount appropriated. The great number of persons who visit this Market on market-days, compel many, even in bad weather, to pass either on the eave Footways, or in the middle of the street. This is an evil (especially to females,) very much complained of, and would appear to require a remedy; it is submitted whether a row of flags laid in the centre of the street from Baltimore to Water Streets, parallel with the Market House, and others leading from the eave footways across the street, to the footways in front of the houses on Market Space, would not have the effect to remedy the evil.

The Belair Market House has been improved, the Butcher's Stalls have been disposed of, and the Market appears in an improving state.

The Lexington Hay Scales have been improved and repaired as directed.

The attention of the City Council is respectfully requested to that part of Lexington Street where it is crossed by the water of Run Alley; the quantity of water flowing across this street in time of heavy rains, renders it impassable for foot passengers. Perhaps a row of flags can be so placed upon upright stones in the middle of said street, under which the water may pass, as not to obstruct carriages, while they would afford a safe and convenient passage in time of high water.

A successful experiment has been made in boring for water in a dry well of rocky bottom on West Pratt Street, by which means a copious supply has been obtained. No opportunity has presented itself in a well of common earth.

The wall and repairs of Charles and Calvert Street Springs and the improvement of the Eastern Fountain have been completed. The improvements directed to be made in Ensor, Hillen, Forrest and South Calvert Streets, have also been completed.

Peace and Dutch Alleys have been repaved, and Lombard Street has been opened, though not without some difficulties—persons owning property over which the street has passed thinking it unreasonable that they should be required to pay tax on property condemned as a public highway, although not actually opened as such, and there being no person authorized to afford relief, this is submitted to the consideration of the Council.

The provisions of the Ordinance relative to Measurers of Grain, etc., appears to have only a partial effect, inasmuch as the purchaser and seller are liable to a penalty for employing a person who is not a sworn measurer, while the person so employed is liable to no penalty and escapes with impunity.

The Mud Machines have been advantageously employed the past year, and the navigation of the Basin is evidently much improved. The Steam Dredging Machine is found to be a

valuable acquisition, and the prospect of improving the Harbour is more flattering than at any former period, inasmuch as many parts of the Basin have by the aid of the Steam Machine been dug considerably below the original bed of the River. It will, however, become necessary that a set of buckets of smaller size should be procured in order to avoid an unnecessary strain of the machinery when used in hard, gravelly bottom.

Herewith is transmitted the third annual report of the President and Directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, by which it will appear that notwithstanding they have had numerous unforseen difficulties to encounter they manifest no want of confidence in the early and triumphant accomplishment of this noble enterprise.

The amount allotted to the City of Baltimore by the 21st section of the act of the General Assembly of Maryland, entitled an act to regulate sales by Public Auction, has not been received, there being no person authorized by the City Council to apply to the treasurer of the Western Shore of Maryland for the same; the early attention of the City Council is respectfully requested to this subject.

The cleaning of our streets is an object of great importance as it not only adds to the comfort and convenience of our citizens, but contributes materially to the general health and character of our City. The amount annually appropriated is too limited to enable the Superintendents to have the work well done, especially when it is taken into view that the districts to be cleaned are annually enlarged by the addition of the newly paved streets. In order, therefore, to keep the expense within the amount appropriated, many of them cannot be so frequently cleaned as they should be, and others only partially so. Considerable improvement has been effected in the manner of paving our streets, during the past year. Care has been taken to select the stone (as far as practicable) of nearly equal size; the stone of such streets as were directed to be repaved, has been assorted, and that of the largest size broken, which has evidently had the effect to produce greater evenness.

Their general roughness, will not however, be effectually removed until an entire change is made in the manner of doing the work. The pavers are generally persons of limited means and consequently collect stone of all descriptions, in small parcels, many of which are brought from foreign countries as ballast, and being of different solidity, cannot be expected to be durable when used for paving. It is, therefore, submitted whether the City Commissioners should not have a fund at their disposal, in order to enable them to advertise for and purchase the paving stone, called the river pebble, of which an abundance may be had on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, such as was formerly used in paving part of Gay Street, which has not required repairing, although believed to be the first street paved within the City, and to prohibit the use of all other kinds except those furnished by them. This description of stone placed upon a bed of gravel, (instead of sand as required by the 20th section of the Ordinance of 1826,) as is the case in our neighboring Cities, would, it is confidently believed, have a tendency to produce greater solidity, and in some measure prevent much of the roughness so justly complained of, besides save considerable expense in their repairs, inasmuch as the pressure of the stone upon the sand, under the present system, causes it to work up through the cavities, and the stones are left finally to rest upon the naked earth.

The condition of many of the streets is such as to cause general dissatisfaction. and may be attributed to various causes. Much of their irregularity is justly imputable to the frequent repairs of the Water Company's Works. The stone pavements are taken up by them several times a year, and are frequently suffered to remain in such a state as to prove inconvenient, and often dangerous to the community. They are then repaved, and a roughness of surface is thereby produced, for which there appears no remedy, but the entire repaving of such streets. It is submitted whether all persons having occasion to take up the pavement of any of our streets, should not be compelled, under a penalty to fill up such excavations with dry earth, and have the same well rammed and repaired forthwith.

Baltimore and Pratt Streets will require repaving the ensuing season, as also some of those which lead directly from the wharves, many of which are so much sunken in holes as to cause great difficulty and increased expense in cleaning. It is very doubtful whether the frequent repairs which many of them undergo at the public expense tend to any good effect, inasmuch as the sunken parts taken up and repaved are liable to settle by the first burthen that may pass over them, and thereby an unevanness be again produced, which would in a great measure be avoided if there was means provided to repave such streets entire. Much of all this may also be attributed to the numerous carriages of burthen, with narrow felloed wheels, by which they are travelled, and as the annual repairs of our streets is a subject that requires particular attention of the City Council, and as all wagons and carts, the fellows of whose wheels which shall be of the guage or bredth of four inches from side to side, are exempt from the expense of an annual license, it is respectfully submitted whether some additional provisions should not be made in order to induce a more general use of broad fellowed wheels to all carriages of burthen that travel our streets, and thereby gradually bring into operation the provisions of the Act of Assembly of November session of 1782.

The Ordinance to provide for the Registering of all qualified voters of the City of Baltimore passed at the last annual session of the City Council has been tested at the late election held on the third Monday in October last, and has been found inefficient in its provisions. The Ordinance has caused considerable excitement. This matter is respectfully submitted to the wisdom of the City Council.

The Resolution of the City Council, passed at the last annual session, authorizing improvements and alterations to be made in the interior of the Court House, to carry into effect the provisions of the Act of Assembly for the dispatch of business in Baltimore County Court, has been completed.

David Harris, agent for the Corporation for liquidating the unsettled claims of the City of Baltimore against the General Government for money expended in defense of the City during

the late war, has not been inattentive to that duty. He is flattered with the belief that the accounts will be finally adjusted during the present session of Congress.

The Report of the Trustees of the Poor of Baltimore City and County has been received and is herewith transmitted, by which it will appear that although there has been an increase in the number of inmates in the House, and a consequent additional expense, during the past year, (not owing to an actual increase of paupers amongst our citizens, but to the great influx of strangers who have visited our City to obtain employment on the public work now in progress in this vicinity.) No exertion appears to be wanting on the part of the Trustees to render the inmates comfortable, and to observe the strictest economy in all their arrangements.

The Reports of the Commissioners of Health, Consulting Physician, Health Officer, Port Wardens, and City Commissioners have been received and are herewith transmitted.

The Report of the proceedings of the Commissioners of Finance will be submitted at an early period of the session.

By comparing the returns of the Superintendents of Chimney Sweeps for the past year, of the number of houses in the City with that of the one preceeding, it will appear that there is a considerable increase in the improvements of our City, and that it is steadily advancing in prosperity and importance.

These cannot fail to be promoted by salutary Regulations and by rigid enforcement.

By a report of the City Register, the following serves to show the amount of the City Stock debt at the close of the year 1829:

The amount of 5 per cent. stock redeemable in the year 1832, including the amount of $300 purchased by the Commissioners of Finance since last annual report, and not yet cancelled,	$306,828.45
Amount of 6 per cent stock redeemable in the year 1838.....	80,000.00
Amount of 5 per cent. stock redeemable in the	

year 1838, issued to meet the payment of installments upon the stock held by the City in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.....	95,000.00
Making a total of.....	$481,828.45
Deduct the amount of 5 per cent. stock purchased by the Commissioners of Finance during the year 1829, and now held by them to be cancelled at the present session of the City Council	300.00
Leaving the amount of City stock debt	$481,528.45

The City Register has prepared and will lay his accounts for the year 1829, before you for examination, by which it will appear that there is no material difference in the returns of the City Collector into the City treasury for the past year from those of the one preceding, and there remains in the hands of the Commissioners of Finance a balance of $16,568.83, of which amount $1,441.08 is applicable to Public Schools, and a balance of $9,925.20 in the City treasury, subject to the further disposition of the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOB SMALL, Mayor.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Baltimore, January 3, 1831.

Gentlemen of the First and
Second Branches of the City Council:

Your assemblage in annual session affords me an opportunity to submit a general statement of the affairs of the City for the past year. Its health, notwithstanding the excessive heat of the past season, has been without a parellel; but though we have been thus highly favored, no effort for a continuance thereof should be omitted. The cleaning of our streets is of the first importance, and adds to the general health and comfort of our fellow-citizens, and of the strangers who may visit our city. The appropriations for this object should be liberal, especially when it is considered that newly paved streets are annually added, which consequently increase the expenses. It is respectfully submitted, whether it would not be conducive to the comfort of our citizens if some of the principal streets were swept in dry seasons, instead of being watered; and that an arrangement should be made with the Water Company for the use of the fire-plugs, to be used at least once a week to wash the gutters and market places.

The lower part of Caroline, between Fleet and Lancaster Streets, has been improved by filling the same with gravel, which has added to the comfort and general health of that section of the City.

The mud machines have been diligently and actively employed during the past season, and the navigation of the harbor has been much improved; the appropriation for that object having been very limited, required the work to be closed at a much earlier period than usual. Considerable progress has been made in deepening the navigation at the south end of Washington Street, Fell's Point; much, however, remains

yet to be done, in order to restore the navigation in that vicinity. The channel of the Basin east of Harbaugh's Wharf should be widened. Vessels coming round the point run aground on the south side thereof. A set of new buckets, of smaller size, has been procured for the steam dredging mud machine, which are found to be preferable to those formerly in use. A new discharging mud machine has been completed, and a number of new scows built.

The amount allotted to the City of Baltimore, by the Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, for deepening the Harbor, has been received and applied to that object.

The walling of Harford Run has been completed. Some provision will be necessary in order to raise the west side of Harford near Wilkes Street, in order to give access to the new improvements situated thereon.

Market Street, Fell's Point, has been gravelled from Gough to East Pratt Street. Some further provision will be necessary to complete this great thoroughfare.

A Bridge has been erected over Harford Run at Orleans Street, and the street improved as directed.

Centre Fish Market Foot-Bridge over Jones' Falls, will, owing to its decayed state, require to be replaced by a new one the present year.

A Foot Bridge has been erected in the centre of Lexington Street, at its intersection with Run Alley.

The Long Bridge over the mouth of Gwynn's Falls, is decayed to such an extent as to require a much larger expenditure than is applicable to that object, out of the fund allotted for the repairs of highways and bridges.

Bridges have been erected over the runs near Republican and Franklin Streets, as directed.

It is submitted whether the water which passes through Bower's Sewer should not be so changed as to pass down Monument and French Streets, as thereby might be avoided the heavy expense annually incurred in removing the great nuisance originating from that source, and the health of the citizens preserved in that neighborhood.

The Public Schools have been increased, the report of the Commissioners will exhibit their progress, and the expense incurred during the past year. The distributive share of the School Fund, for the year eighteen hundred and thirty, to which the City is entitled by the Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, has been received by the Register, and placed to the credit of that object.

Our City has, during the past year, been exempt from any serious fires. The vigilance of our Fire Companies is unabated, and continues to merit the fostering hand of the public authorities. Some provision is necessary to prevent the frequent false alarms of fire, and the passing of the engines and apparatus upon the foot ways, by which practice they endanger the lives, and destroy the property of our fellow-citizens.

The property on Holliday Street, purchased for the use of the Corporation, has, under the direction and superintendence of the committee appointed by the last City Council, been repaired, and every improvement made that was believed to be necessary for the comfortable accommodation of the City authorities situated therein. Insurance has been effected on this property, as also on the Belvidere Bridge.

Gas lamps have been erected at the Lexington and Centre Markets, and also on a part of Pratt and Holliday Streets. The oil lamps taken from those situations have been transferred to such parts of the City as appeared most to require them, and the lighting of other parts much improved.

The decayed condition of Dugan's Wharf will require your early attention, as the funds arising from wharfage and applicable to this object, are not within the control of the Port Wardens, those funds being under the late injunction by an order of the Chancellor of Maryland, required to be paid by the Harbor Master into the hands of the Register of the City, there to await the issue of the pending controversy. It is submitted, whether it would not be advisable that a joint application be made by the parties interested, in order to authorize the use of such funds as may from time to time be in the hands of the

Register, to be applied to the necessary repairs of said wharf, and that provision be made in anticipation to meet any deficiency that may occur.

The several Market Houses have been improved and repaired as directed, except the roof of the lower Centre Market House, which on re-examination was found too much decayed to be repaired within the amount of the appropriation. The flag-stones across the street at Centre Market Space have also been laid; the comfort and convenience arising from this improvement, make the necessity of the contemplated row running north and south along the centre of the street, in a line with the range of wagons, the more striking.

The several Markets continue to exhibit a gradual increase in the amount of revenue. Some provision is necessary for the erection of Water Plugs in the Centre Market Houses, in order to be used in time of fire, and to enable the clerks to wash the markets, gutters, &c., as occasion may require.

The Lexington Hay Scales have been improved as directed.

The City Fish Houses have been unproductive the past year; the wharf requires considerable repairs. The Powder Magazine has been repaired as directed.

The cutting down of Hughes Street has not progressed as was anticipated; some further provision will be necessary to the completion of this important object, in order to gratify the just claims of the persons who own property and reside in its vicinity.

The flag and stepping stones have been laid in the different streets as directed.

West Baltimore Street has been paved to the grade directed by the Act of Assembly; Park Lane is, in consequence, in a sunken condition, and will require to be filled up, in order to pass off the water, for which some provision will be necessary.

Pennsylvania Avenue will, until paved, require to be annually repaired. The roughness of many of our streets continues to be a source of great complaint; the annual session of the City Council, being the most unfavorable period of the year to obtain a correct view of their defective state, inasmuch

as the sunken parts are generally covered and levelled by the frost. The unaviodable repairs of the numerous defective parts, which the health of the City imperiously required, and the necessary re-setting of curb stones, where persons were required to pave footways, could not be accomplished within the limited means appropriated. Would it not be advisable to repave a few squares annually, in some of the principal streets, and thereby gradually improve the general state thereof, without incurring too great expense in any one year? The City Commissioners having procured a much better quality of paving stone than that heretofore used, which, laid upon a sufficient body of coarse sand and gravel, when the latter could be obtained without incurring too great an increase of expense, has evidently improved those newly paved streets; they exhibit a more even surface, and are believed to be more permanent than any streets heretofore paved within the City.

The different streets directed to be repaved have been completed; the large stones heretofore used have been broken and assorted, and the manner of paving generally much improved. It is submitted whether it would not be advisable to procure a better quality of curb-stones in place of the common quarry stone at present in use, and thereby make a great saving in the general repairs.

Flag stones are much wanted at the crossings of many of the streets, especially on the line of Lombard Street. It is submitted whether the manner in which the flag-stones are laid at the crossings of the streets, should not be so changed as to require two rows of not less than eighteen inches in breadth each, to be laid in parallel lines, leaving a space of eighteen inches in width between those rows, to be paved with common round stone, as this manner of laying flag-stones would require them of less size, be less expensive, more convenient for foot passengers, and less difficult for draft horses.

The opening and paving of Half-Moon Alley has not been effected, owing to a legal impediment in the title. A similar difficulty has occurred in the opening of Water Street.

Two successful experiments have been made in boring for water in wells of rocky bottom; one in the northeast and one in the western parts of the City. A well has been sunk on the public walk on Hampstead Hill,and a pump placed therein, as directed. The past dry season has caused an unavoidable increase of expense in this department.

Bath, Swan, and Hawk Streets have been improved as directed.

The situation at the intersection of Charles and Centre Streets, will require some additional improvement in order to afford convenient access to the Washington Monument.

The opening of Lexington Street within the City line has not been effected, owing to a defect in the Ordinance on that subject.

An application having been made to pave that part of Chatsworth Street, situated between Pierce and George Streets, and the petitioners having complied with the requisitions of the Ordinances on that subject, the usual proceedings were had by the City Commissioners, a contract entered into with the pavers, and considerable expense incurred in preparing said street, when an injunction was laid, which is pending in the Court of Chancery, during which period the work has necessarily been stopped. As this is a case of extreme hardship, it is submitted whether some provision should not be made in anticipation, in order to compensate for the labor thus performed.

The fire-plugs ordered at the last session of the City Council have not been completed; the cause of which will be reported by the City Commissioners.

The Watch House on Fell's Point has been improved as directed.

The Resolution in favor of Samuel House, William Savory, and Jacob Daley, have been complied with agreeably to the provisions contained therein.

The proceedings of Baltimore City Court relative to the opening of Monument Street, have been received by the City Register, who is progressing to a completion of that object.

The Ordinance relative to dogs is found inefficient; the number is annually increasing, a large proportion of whom are owned or harboured by persons who are unable to pay the tax. The dogs, when confined, as directed, in case of hydrophobia, are a serious annoyance in the neighborhood. It is submitted whether the Ordinance should not be so amended as to authorize some person to collect the tax, and to make some more efficient provision to diminish their number.

Some further provision is necessary in order to correct an evil, growing out of the great influx of paupers who infest our City, and for which there appears to be no remedy at present. They not only wander about our streets in a miserable state, but enter dwellings, and avail themselves of every opportunity to annoy and harass the inhabitants.

Amongst the numerous public improvements made in the City, there are none of so much importance, that add so much to the comfort of our citizens, or that elicit so universally the approbation of strangers, as the several fountains as improved by the City authorities. The purchase of the first site for one of those fountains, and its improvement, were at the time considered by many as chimerical, and as a useless expenditure of public money. The wisdom, however, and foresight of the projectors of that measure, and the views of its advocates, were in a very short time properly appreciated. Two others, one in the eastern and the other in the south-western section of the City, were subsequently purchased and improved—a step which has met universal approbation.

Looking to the general improvement of the City, and its growing importance, it is respectfully submitted whether the City authorities should not avail themselves of the early opportunity of procuring by purchase, or otherwise, the right of such fountains or springs, as may be situated in the unimproved parts of the City, in order that timely arrangements may be made for their preservation.

Chatsworth Spring, long known as an inexhaustible source of pure and wholesome water, has been partially improved, and the waters thereof collected into one body, which serves to shew the quantity it will yield.

This property can at present be obtained for a comparatively moderate consideration, without incurring any additional expense for future improvement, until the increase of population in that vicinity shall be such as to require it.

Herewith is transmitted a plot of the City, agreeably to the resolution of the City Council of the last session, on which is designated the number of inhabitants in each ward and square, as taken by the persons appointed by the Marshal of this District to take the census, by which it will appear that there is a great inequality in the number of inhabitants of the different wards of the City, which, in order to produce an equal representation, will require to be entirely changed.

The population of the City, agreeably to the census just taken, is eighty thousand, nine hundred and ninety, making an increase of eighteen thousand, two hundred and fifty inhabitants since the year 1820, the period at which the former census was taken, and taking into view that five hundred and forty-two new buildings have been erected during the past year, may we not, from our local situation and the known public spirit and enterprise of our citizens, as evinced on all occasions, be justified in anticipating a much greater increase for the same number of years ensuing? May we not also conclude that this increase of population has not taken place without its evils? That vice and irregularities increase with the population of all large cities, will not be denied, nor that wholesome restraints are necessary, in order to secure the persons and property of the well disposed portion of the community. With this view of the subject, would it not be prudent that the police of the City should be strengthened, by placing within their reach the means to restrain the designs and vicious habits of evil disposed persons, thereby avoiding in many cases the tedious process of a court trial, which is not only attended with a vexatious loss of time to the party injured, without the least prospect of remuneration, but with an unavoidable expense to the City.

Herewith is transmitted the Fourth Annual Report of the President and Directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, by which it will appear, that so far as the road is

made passable, it meets their most sanguine expectations, and exhibits the most favourable progress to its ultimate completion.

Herewith is also transmitted the Third Annual Report of the President and Directors of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad Company, by which it appears that they are progressing with the work, and entertain the most favourable opinion of its general utility.

The Reports of the City Commissioners, and Wardens of the Port, the Commissioners of Health, Consulting Physician, the Health Officer of the Port, and of the Trustees of the Poor of Baltimore City and County, have been received, and are herewith transmitted.

By the Report of the Health Officer of the Port, it will appear, that the receipts for the past year, exceed in amount those of the year proceding, and that there is consequently a gradual increase in the Commerce of the City.

The following Statement in the Report of the Register of the City, serves to show the amount of the City Stock Debt at the close of the year 1830:

Amount of 5 per cent. stock redeemable at the pleasure of the Corporation, at any time after the 1st day January, 1832, including $490.57, held by the Commissioners on Finance, to be cancelled at the present session of the City Council.....	$306,528.45
Amount of 6 per cent. stock redeemable at the pleasure of the Corporation after the 31st day of December, 1838.....	80,000.00
Amount of 5 per cent. stock redeemable at the pleasure of the Corporation, after the 1st day of July, 1838, issued to meet the payments of installments on the City Stock in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, including the sum of $50,000.00 held by the Commissioners on Finance, as an operative fund.....	145,000.00

Amount of 5 per cent. stock redeemable at the pleasure of the Corporation, after the 1st day of July, 1840, issued to meet the installments on the City Stock in the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad Company, including the sum of $6,000.00 held by the Commissioners on Finance, as an operative fund.....	$12,000.00
	$543,528.45
Deduct the amount of 5 per cent. stock purchased by the Commissioners on Finance during the year 1830, and now held by them to be cancelled at the present session of the City Council.....	490.57
Leaving the amount of City Stock Debt	$543,037.88

The Register of the City has prepared, and will lay his Accounts for the year 1830, before you for examination, by which it will appear that the returns of the City Collector, as paid into the City Treasurer for the past year, do not vary materially from those of the year preceding, and that there remains in the hands of the Commissioners on Finance an unexpended balance of $897.94, and a balance of $15,092.17 in the City Treasury, subject to the future disposition of the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOB SMALL, *Mayor.*

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